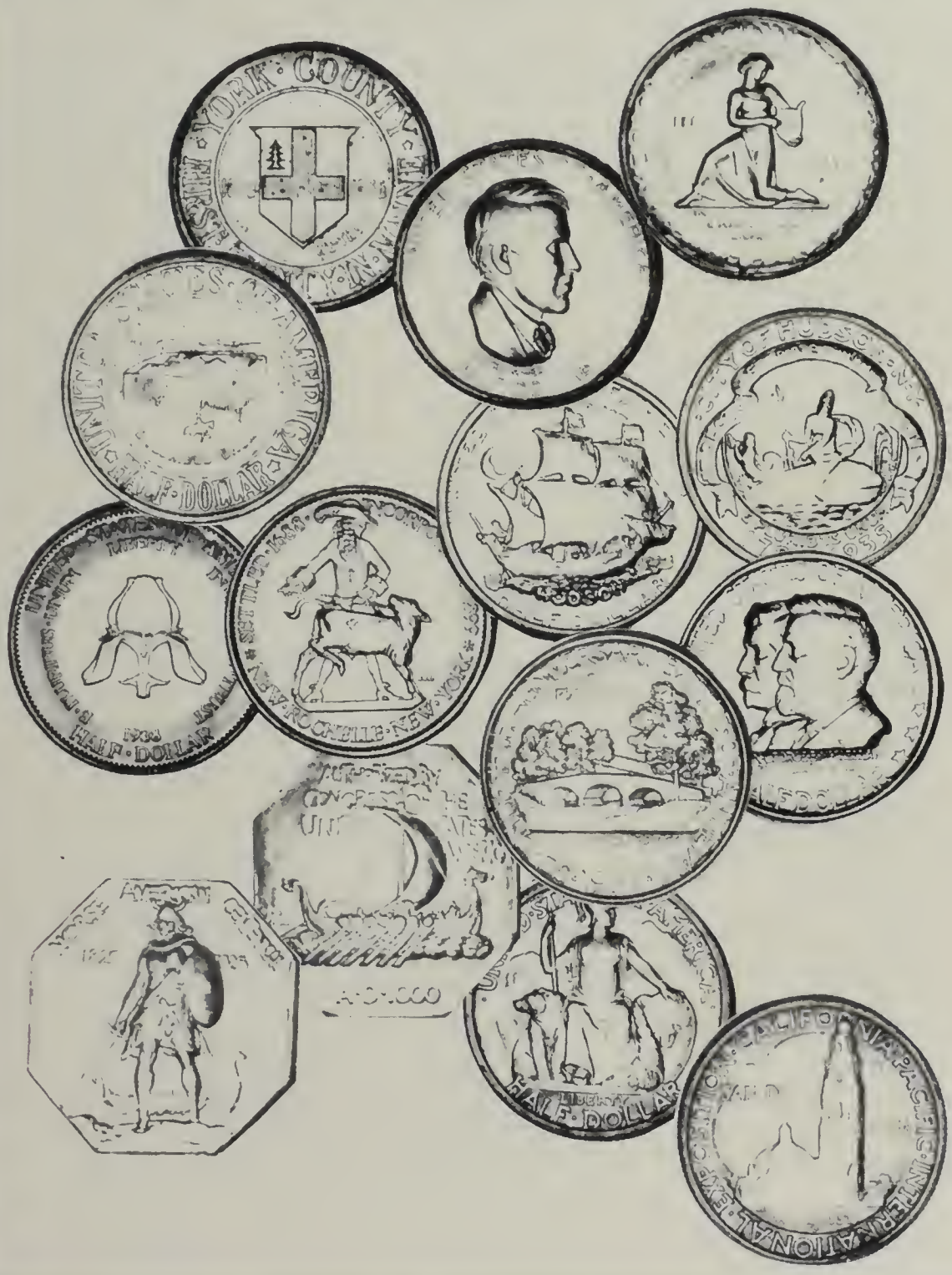
the centinel

Quarterly Journal of the
Central States Numismatic Society



CENTRAL STATES NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 2
Summer, 1984

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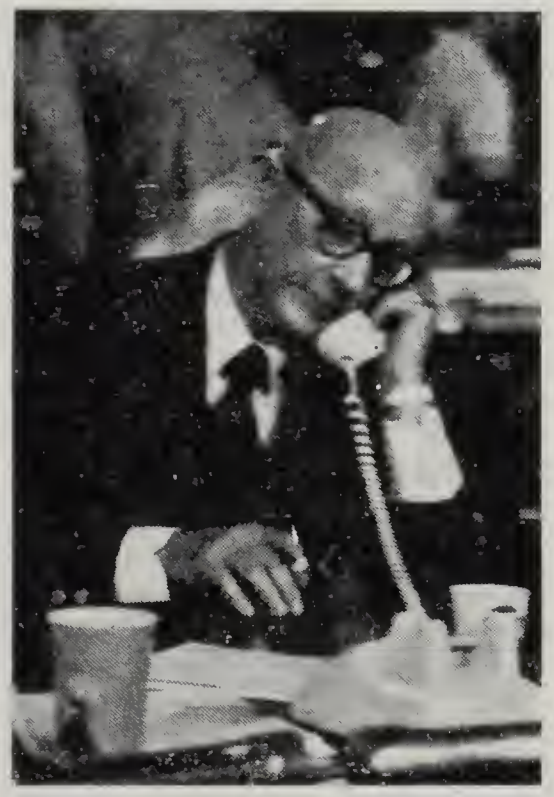
Address all correspondence regarding **The Centinel** to the Editor, except changes of address, which should be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY



John Cain

I can think of many reasons to thank you, but mainly I wish to thank you for participating in the recent election of new Board Members and Officers of CSNS. As I have written before, as your President, I will strive for the betterment of CSNS and numismatics in general. I would like to see more members start to take an active role in our organization.

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society and General Chairman A. P. "Del" Bertschy did a fantastic job in hosting a well planned convention for our members. Our thanks to "Del" and all his committee chairmen and other hard working Milwaukee Numismatic Society members who made our most recent visit to Wisconsin so memorable.

At our Board meetings in Milwaukee some new ideas came up that we think are progressive and needed. Beginning with our convention in Minneapolis next year, CSNS will take a more active role in the planning and direction of our annual convention activities.

Another area where a need for change was identified was the exhibit rules. They've had a tendency to change from convention to convention. I've appointed a committee to rewrite the exhibit rules to eliminate this inconsistency.

Our Secretary-Treasurer's workload is being looked at very closely, with the idea of shifting some of it. Most of her work has been done the hard way -- by hand. Again, I've called on a committee to look into this question and propose some solutions.

By the time you read this the Board will have met in Peoria in conjunction with the September 7-9 convention of the Illinois Numismatic Association. I'll report to you in the Fall **Centinel** on the specific decisions made there.

Any suggestions or ideas our members have that might benefit our organization are always welcome. Communications from the members are always accepted with thanks and the assurance that they will be seriously considered by the Board. Feel free to contact any Board member or Officer with your ideas.

John Cain
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

This will be my public, and personal, thank you to the wonderful people in Milwaukee. Again, you have shown us what that city is really famous for — hospitality. A special nod to "Del" and Luella — we appreciate the many hours you had to spend to ensure a great convention. And, congratulations to the Milwaukee Numismatic Society on 50 years of numismatic club work.

The most important thing I have to say to the members is in regard to the voting for your Board of Governors. If you will recall, in the Spring issue of **The Centinel** I predicted that less than ten votes would separate the successful candidates from the unsuccessful ones. How true that turned out to be — as a matter of fact, one or two votes made the difference. This message is intended especially for those of you who feel your vote doesn't count. At least in this instance, **every** vote counted.

At this point, I think another big THANK YOU is in order — for the tallying committee. These people put in long, hard hours. With the count as close as it was, the task was harrowing, and special care had to be taken. This job must be done whenever we hold an election; and the persons are asked by the President to sit on this committee. Anyone care to volunteer for 1986? The only restriction — other than being a member in good standing — is that you must not be a candidate for a contested seat.

Before I leave this subject, I would like to point out that **any** member can nominate any other member for **any** position on the Board. There have been remarks that there is no choice when voting for officers. Please read your By-Laws. You will find that only those persons who have been nominated, and accept the nomination, can have their names on the ballot. So — if you know someone who is qualified and whom you would like to represent you, write a letter. The call for nominations is in the October issue of **The Centinel** in the year preceding the election.

I'm happy to report to you that our new President, John Cain, has reappointed George Hatie as our Legal Counsel and Kevin Foley as Editor of **The Centinel.** These are some more hard-working people for CSNS!

Marjorie Owen - Hendershott
Secretary-Treasurer

U. S. Large Cents were minted from 1793 until 1857.

The last Indian Head Cents bear the date 1909.

Central States Reprint Released

A reprinted collection of Leonard M. Owen's **Centinel** articles, **Territorial Banking In Nebraska** is now available. This reprint from the pages of **The Centinel** will supply the novice as well as the advanced collector with a variety listing or personal checklist for their holdings. This is accomplished at a price well within the budget limits of any collector, even if obsolete currency isn't a specialty.

The 44 page paperback contains a series of illustrated articles outlining the history of the various Nebraska banks and towns which issued notes during the pre Civil War years. Also included is a descriptive listing of known notes as well as rarity listings for each.

At $3.00 each plus 50¢ postage, this well written book belongs in the numismatic library of anyone with even a passing interest in obsolete paper money. Orders can be placed with: Central States Numismatic Society, c/o Leonard Owen, 684 North 59th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68505.

Quantity discounts are available for purchases of twelve or more books.

Indiana Convention Features Authentication

Most coins in today's numismatic marketplace are genuine, a former American Numismatic Association authenticator said after examining coins at the Indiana State Numismatic Association's June convention.

John Hunter, Winchester, Ind., conducted a seminar on counterfeit coins and provided free authentication during the three-day convention. Hunter said he examined about 500 coins and found 95 percent to be genuine. He said this ratio reflects the current status of the numismatic marketplace.

Although new counterfeit coins reach the marketplace often, Hunter said they are usually detected quickly and publicized. He praised quick work by ANACS and other authentication services.

A record 192-dealer-table bourse was set up, eclipsing last year's show by four tables. Howard Linville, general chairman for the 1985 convention, said he anticipated a bourse sellout of 200 tables.

Rick and Letha Martin, Logansport, Ind., long-time ISNA volunteers and officers, were honored at the awards banquet as the association named its junior exhibit award in their honor. The Martins have long been involved in young numismatist activities in Indiana.

The first junior to win the award was Debbie Wilamowski, Fraser, MI., who also won the Ruth Linville Memorial Award for exhibiting. Bruce Vogel, Indianapolis, won senior best of show honors.

Special awards were presented to Dave Rasor, Fort Wayne, and Jerry Lebo, Indianapolis. Rasor was honored for his work on a silver bar series and an ISNA slide program in which ANA programs were duplicated. Lebo was cited for producing a special issue of the ISNA News.

More than 30 people attended a Sunday morning breakfast for representatives of local coin clubs in Indiana. The session provided a forum for the exchange of ideas between clubs themselves and between clubs and ISNA.

Don Hudson, Indianapolis, was installed as ISNA president, succeeding Al VanHorn, New Haven, who did not seek re-election. There were no contested races for the board of governors.

Large Star Note Catalog Nearing Completion

The status of the overdue catalog of large size U. S. replacement (star) notes has been revealed by Doug Murray, author of the book. The original plan was to issue two catalogs, the first in the fall of 1982, followed with an updated special edition in 1985 commemorating the 75th anniversary of star notes. It was hoped that the first catalog would stimulate many additional reports; thereby making the Anniversary Edition much more complete. However, the 1982 edition turned out to be a victim of the then sagging economy. As the currency market deteriorated, the chance greatly increased of a financial loss on the privately funded book. Therefore, plans for a late 1982 edition were canceled, and emphasis on the 1985 special edition was made.

The "Handbook of United States Large Size Star Notes 1910-1929" will list by serial number each of the 1,933 large stars reported thus far, (plus those reported until the August ANA convention) and will utilize both Friedberg and Hessler catalog numbers.

The 80-page 6" x 9" soft cover book will contain over 60 clear photographs showing each type (United States Notes, Silver Certificates, Federal Reserve Bank Notes, Federal Reserve Notes, and Gold Certificates) and the acknowledged Friedberg/Hessler varieties. It will have a two-part format; the first will contain summary information for each type, such as the number of possible and known star signature combinations, the total number of notes reported, and totals by signature combination.

Pricing in three grades will also be presented. The second part will also list by type (USN, SC, FRBN, FRN, and GC) all of the serial numbers reported, as well as signatures, plate data, approximate grades, and, again, both Friedberg and Hessler catalog numbers.

This is a final appeal to all collectors and dealers, who have not done so already, to please contribute information on their large size star notes to make the 75th anniversary catalog as complete as possible. Your identities will be held confidential. Please send the following information to Doug Murray, P. O. Box 2, Portage, Mich. 49081:

1) Type of note
2) Serial number
3) Signature combination
4) Face plate number & position letter
5) Back plate number
6) Approximate grade of note

Omaha Club Celebrates Anniversary

The 50th anniversary of the Omaha Coin Club was observed May 18 with a banquet at Mr. C's Steak House. There were 45 members and guests in attendance. Among the guests was Marjorie Owen - Hendershott, Secretary-Treasurer of the Central States Numismatic Society.

A display and photographs on Nelson T. Thorson, founder of the Omaha Coin Club and President of ANA in 1934, the organizational meeting, and other club events were assembled by Richard Fielding, Orville J. Grady and Melvin Stark. Matchbooks circa 1950 advertising Nelson T. Thorson's Coin and Stamp Exchange were handed out.

The following persons were elected officers for the coming year: Steven C. Drake, President; Wayne Hohndorf, Vice President; Orville J. Grady, Secretary; and Quent Hanson, Treasurer. The slide show "Counterfeit Detection: Dimes through Silver Dollars," was narrated by Richard Fielding.

Leonard Owen was master of ceremonies for the award portion of the evening. Plaques were issued to all life

members of the club. Special awards were given to Hank Jungbluth, for designing the reverse of the 50th anniversary medal, and Richard Barnhart for special advertisements of the club's annual shows. Security Award Pleques were made for Joe Aken and Jack Vacarro, Omaha police officers who have provided security for the annual show the past several years.

Several door prizes were also awarded. Western Rare Coins donated a $5 trade prize and COIN WORLD donated Redbooks and Paper Money Errors books.

The club's 50th anniversary medals were available for those in attendance. The antique nickel/silver medal is available at $4 postpaid. The regular monthly meeting of the Omaha Coin Club is held the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m., at Commercial Federal Savings, 96th and "L" Streets.

For further information, write to: Omaha Coin Club, P. O. Box 1003 DTS, Omaha, NE 68101.

Iowa Club Honors 20 Year Members

The Cedar Rapids, Iowa Coin Club held a ceremony at one of its recent meetings to honor nine twenty-year members. Cited by the Iowa group were, front row, left to right: Joseph Schindler, Joseph Marshek, Myron Hittenmiller, and Leo Sears. Rear, left to right: Ted Lorenzen, Stanley Miller, Raymond Schladetzky, James Maupin, and James Read.

Look forward to the 46th Anniversary Convention

of the Central States Numismatic Society

on April 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1985

at Minneapolis, Minnesota

Convention Highlights

Milwaukee's MECCA Convention Center was the site April 27-29 of the 45th Anniversary Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society. The event was hosted by the Milwaukee Numismatic Society as part of the local club's celebration of its own 50th Anniversary. The convention boasted a 242 table bourse, one of the largest ever in the Central States region.

As has come to be expected at Central States Conventions, exhibitors from across the country converged on Milwaukee to compete for some of the most coveted awards in exhibiting circles.

Brookfield, Wisconsin residents Leo and Irene Neidinger were among the most successful of the exhibitors, capturing almost a full third of the 24 trophies awarded. The bourse area saw exceptionally heavy attendance and many of the dealers reported a highly successful show.

In addition to the exhibit, special presentations were made to Samuel W. Johnson, Jr., who received the Elston Bradfield Literary Award for the second year running. The Bradfield Award is given annually to the author of the best article to appear in the previous year's **Centinel.** The Daniel Parker Young Numismatic Literary Award was won by Georgia's David Massey. Named in honor of the immediate past Editor of the **Centinel,** the Parker Award is presented each year to the author of the best young numismatist article to appear in the magazine.

CSNS Election Results

New Officers and Board Members were installed at the Milwaukee Convention. There was no opposition for the four officers positions as John H. Cain advanced to the Presidency, Leon Hendrickson became First Vice President, Michael Kolman assumed the duties of Second Vice President, and Marjorie Owen-Hendershot was returned to office as Secretary-Treasurer.

There was spirited and close competition for the 13 available Board positions, with a total of 18 candidates seeking office. A close look at the election results shows that only two votes separated the two lowest vote getters among the successful candidates, Earl Armstrong and Bill Quarles, with 250 each, from the highest total of the unsuccessful candidates, George Beach, with 248. Incumbents names are shown in italics.

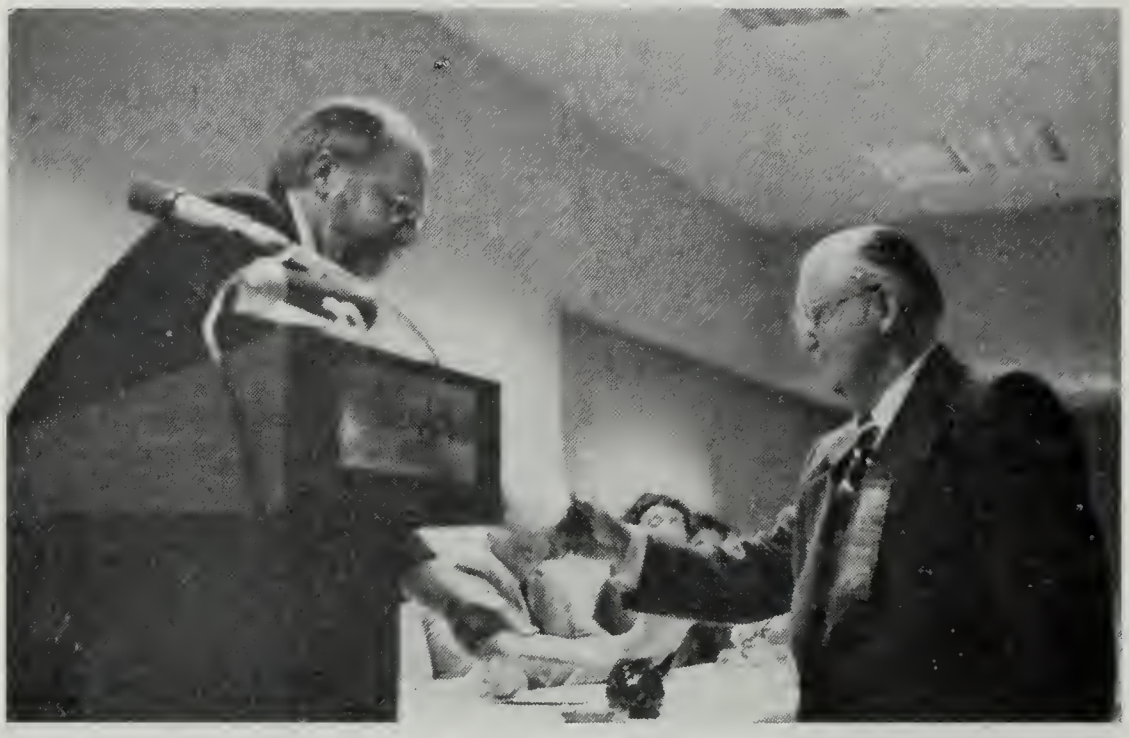
Candidate	Vote Total
Ray Lefman	355
A. P. "Del" Bertschy	341
Harold Berk	336
Robert Douglas	326
Leonard Owen	321
Donald Hudson	319
Ralph Hardman	311
Richard Hartzog	310
Larry Rowe	298

Candidate	Vote Total
Florence Schook	293
Orlane Kittle	254
William Quarles	250
Earl Armstrong	250
George Beach	248
Helen Sedo	233
Richard Peterson	230
Leon Thornton	228
Ed Richt	216

Convention Photo Album

Outgoing President Kurt Krueger, center, appears relieved that the duties of his office are about to expire as the Banquet gets under way.

General Chairman A. P. "Del" Bertsehy, at the podium, shares some numismatic memories at the Awards Banquet.



Well know numismatist Harry Boosel captured third place honors in the Coins After 1500 *category for his exhibit* Around the World in 1873. *Milwaukee Numismatic Society President Bob Korosec, left, presents his award.*

Sycamore, Illinois dealer Bob Rozycki took the third place award in the Miscellaneous *category for his display of* United States Patterns.

Exhibit Chairman Leo Neidinger was also a successful exhibitor and claimed first place honors for All Paper Money *with his exhibit of* Type Dueces.

Irene Neidinger accepts first place for her display of Canadian Commemorative Gold *in the Gold Coins category. Irene's display also captured the coveted Best of Show Award.*

Marjorie Owen and General Chairman A. P. "Del" Bertschy look at "Del's" birthday cake, a surprise gift to him from appreciative members of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society.

The Annual Awards Banquet culminated with the new Officers and Board Members taking the oath of office.

Central States 45th Anniversary Convention

Milwaukee, WI — April 27-29, 1984

Exhibit Awards

I — U. S. Coins

1. Al Hurry ..... Cleveland Counterstamp
2. Leo Neidinger ..... U. S. Coins That Might Have Been
3. Irene Neidinger ..... U. S. Proof Type Coins

II — Gold

1. Irene Neidinger ..... Canada Commemorative Gold
2. Leo Neidinger ..... U. S. Type Gold
3. Fred Morgan ..... U. S. Incuse Gold

III — Coins Prior to 1500

1. William Baker ..... Ancient Roman Coins
2. Saul Needleman ..... Origin of the English Penny

IV — Coins After 1500

1. Irene Neidinger ..... Six Sovereign Queens of England
2. Donald Ploegman ..... Canada Cents
3. Harry Boosel ..... Around the World in 1873

V — All Paper Money

1. Leo Neidinger ..... Type Dueces
2. Nancy Wilson ..... U. S. Five Dollar Type Notes
3. Neil Shafer ..... A Dollars Worth of Cents

VI — Medals, Tokens, Decorations

1. Carl Wolf ..... Chicago Club Anniversary Medals
2. Earl Ziesmer ..... Colorado Centennial Medal
3. John Wilson ..... America In Space

VII — Miscellaneous

1. Leo Neidinger ..... Portrait Dollars
2. Fred Morgan ..... Florida Sea Salvage Coins
3. Bob Rozycki ..... U. S. Patterns

VIII — Juniors

1. Michael Brodsky ..... Byzantine Scyphates
2. Roger Meidenbauer ..... Death Dollar
3. Bill Grundy ..... Jefferson Nickels

Best of Show

Irene Neidinger ..... Canada Commemorative Gold

HOW MANY NEW MEMBERS HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CSNS SO FAR THIS YEAR?

BRITAIN'S 1984 GOLD SET

The British Royal Mint has announced that the 1984 Gold Proof Coins, comprising the Sovereign, Half-Sovereign and the £5 Coin are now available to North American collectors. The news follows closely the complete sell out of the 1983 Gold Proof £2 Coin which had been offered separately to collectors for the first time. Announcing the 1984 issue, Michael J. Mansley, the Royal Mint's Assistant Director of Marketing for North America, expressed his great satisfaction that British gold coins were so popular in North America. "It's exciting that so many collectors enjoy and recognize the classic design values of the coins."

The sovereign has a significant history in Britain's coinage. First introduced in 1489 during the reign of King Henry VII, it was nick-named the "sovereign" because of the special interest which the Monarch took in it. Gradually the pound coin was surplanted by the "guinea," made from Guinea gold. It was late in the reign of George III that the coin was reintroduced in 1817, following an act of Parliament aimed at standardizing the currency.

The celebrated gem engraver, Benedetto Pistrucci, was recruited from Italy to produce the design for the new sovereign. Immediately used in 1817 on the sovereign and in 1820 on the £5 coin, Pistrucci's now classic portrayal of "St. George Slaying the Dragon," has appeared on the reverse of every gold sovereign since 1887 and all United Kingdom gold coins since 1893 when it was similarly adopted for the half sovereign. Previously the reverse for the half sovereign has been a shield, the elements of which changed according to the reigning Monarch.

The £5 Coin which was struck in 1820 bore the Pistrucci engraving, however, the later issues of 1826 and 1839 did not. Indeed, it is the 1839 coin which bore the famous "Una and the Lion" on its reverse. The Pistrucci reverse was readopted for the Queen Victoria £5 Coin struck in 1887, and has appeared on all £5 gold proof coins which have been issued only occasionally since then; namely 1893, and the Coronation issues of 1902 (Edward VII), 1911 (George V), 1937 (George VI), and 1953 (Queen Elizabeth II) — the last struck for record purposes only. In 1980 the Royal Mint struck a limited issue of £5 coins for inclusion in a special four coin gold proof set. Additional limited issues were struck in 1981 and 1982, but the £5 coin still remains rare and attractive with its dimensions of 36.02 mm diameter and weight of 39.94 grams.

The dimensions of the Sovereign are diameter 22.05 mm, weight 7.98 grams; Half Sovereign diameter 19.30 mm, weight 3.99 grams. Minting limits are 22,000 for the Sovereign and Half-Sovereign and only 8,000 for the £5 Coin. The number of Gold Sets available will, of course, be determined by the combined purchases of the £5 Coin and the Gold Set. Each coin, which can be purchased either individually or as a set, is protected in a clear acrylic capsule within a attractive hand-made presentation case.

Prices are:

1984 Gold Proof Sovereign	$ 235.00 (US)	$ 295.00 (CAN)
1984 Gold Proof Half-Sovereign	$ 125.00 (US)	$ 158.00 (CAN)
1984 Gold Proof £5 Coin	$ 995.00 (US)	$1245.00 (CAN)
1984 Gold Proof Set	$1275.00 (US)	$1595.00 (CAN)

Orders and inquiries should be addressed to the British Royal Mint, c/o Barclays Bank of New York, N. A., P. O. Box 2570, New York, NY 10163, or by calling toll-free 1-800- 221-1215 (9:00-5:00 EDST), except New York residents 212-784-6430. Dealers call 516-938-6016.

1984 British Gold Proof Set

375 Years of History - The Bermuda Silver Proof Collection

An exciting and unusual collection of eleven coins has been struck for the historic island of Bermuda by the British Royal Mint. The legal tender coins, each with a face value of 25¢, bear the Coats of Arms of Bermuda's nine parishes, the Arms of the City of Hamilton, and the Bermuda Coat of Arms. They are issued in silver proof and brilliant uncirculated condition and fittingly commemorate the 375th anniversary of the first English settlement in Bermuda.

Lying 580 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, Bermuda actually consists of about 360 small islands. Many are not inhabited and, indeed, most of the land and population is contained in the five largest islands, the biggest of which, Hamilton is only 13 miles long by one mile wide.

It was on July 25, 1609 that a group of ships carrying settlers bound for Jamestown encountered a violent storm off the coast of Bermuda. One of them, "Sea Venture," was swept away and shipwrecked. It is frequently suggested that it was this incident which prompted Shakespeare's play "the Tempest" and the line, "the still vexed Bermoothes" — the old name for the islands. The coralstone islands, abounding with fauna and flora, proved a very hospitable landfall, and the settlement grew under Royal Charter to the Virginia Com-

pany. In 1874 the charter was revoked and Bermuda became Britain's first Crown Colony.

The eleven coins share a common obverse, the renowned Arnold Machin portrait of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II with the inscription: "BERMUDA — ELIZABETH II," and common dimensions with a diameter of 24.26 mm and a weight of 5.96 grams.

The reverse designs differ for each coin, and each Coat of Arms has a special significance to the early history of the island. The Bermuda Coat of Arms, for example, depicts the wreck of the "Sea Venture," with the motto: QUO FATA FERUNT — "Wherever the Fates lead." The Arms of the individual parishes are based upon the family Coat of Arms of one of the original patrons of the Virginia Company after which the parish is named; hence, Smith

1984 Bermuda Silver Proof Collection

Parish for Sir Thomas Smith the treasurer of the Virginia Company, and Devonshire Parish after William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire and an investor in the first permanent settlement of Bermuda.

The 1984 Bermuda 375th Anniversary Proof Set will be available as a collection only. No coins will be sold individually and a strictly limited mintage of 5,000 silver proof collections has been authorized. The collection is supplied in a handsome padded presentation case and may be purchased by subscription on the basis of one coin per month or in one complete shipment.

Prices are:

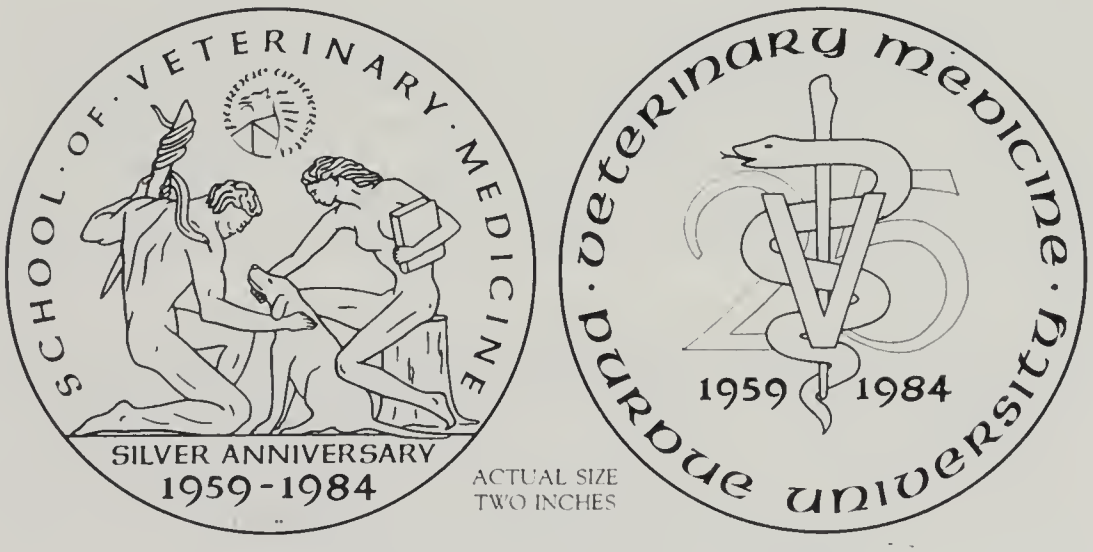
1984 Bermuda Silver Proof Collection	$250.00 (US)	$325.00 (CAN)
Monthly Subscription	$ 24.95 (US)	$ 33.00 (CAN)
Brilliant Uncirculated Set	$ 24:95 (US)	$ 33.00 (CAN)

Orders and inquiries should be addressed to the British Royal Mint, c/o Barclays Bank of New York, N. A., P. O. Box 2570, New York, NY 10163, or by calling toll-free 1-800- 221-1215 (9:00-5:00 EDST), except New York residents 212-784-6430. Dealers call 516-334-7113.

Medal Marks Anniversary

West Lafayette, Ind. — A medal has been struck to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine, according to Jack J. Stockton, dean of the school.

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
OFFICIAL TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL



DESIGNED AND SCULPTURED BY N. NEIL HARRIS
STRUCK BY MEDALLIC ART COMPANY IN LIMITED BRONZE AND SILVER EDITIONS

Stockton said the two-inch medal, designed by nationally known medallic-arts sculptor N. Neil Harris, will be available in bronze and silver versions through May 25. The school's first class of 50 students was enrolled in 1959, two years after the Indiana General Assembly authorized its establishment.

The silver-anniversary medal design's front depicts male and female figures tending the medical needs of a dog. The male carries a staff of Aesculapius,

symbolic of healing, while the female holds a book symbolic of the study of veterinary medicine and allied fields of knowledge. The medal's back features an adaptation of the school's seal.

Stockton noted that Harris' design relates in symbolism and style to medals of English and French origin, circa 1800. Harris is editor of the American Numismatic Association and its monthly publication, the Numismatist, whose readers include some 38,000 collectors of coins, medals, tokens and paper money. His most recent commission was the design of 24 transportation fare tokens for use during the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Harris originated numerous other commemorative medals, including one for the 75th anniversary of the Medical Library Association and a five-year medal series, "Indiana and the Bicentennial," for the Indiana Numismatic Association. Born and reared in Lafayette, Ind., Harris was a scientific illustrator in the Purdue veterinary medical school's Medical Illustration Unit from 1963 to 1974.

The medal was struck by the Medallic Art Co. of Danbury, Conn., a manufacturer of bas-relief art medals for more than 80 years. The solid bronze version of the anniversary medals is available at $27.50 each and the .999 or "pure" fine-silver version at $80 each.

A free, detailed brochure may be obtained or medals ordered from the office of the Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907.

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SPEAKERS BUREAU AVAILABLE

One of the services provided by the Central States Numismatic Society is the maintenance of a roster of qualified speakers willing to present programs at coin show educational forums, club banquets, service club functions, or similar events where an audience would like to learn about numismatics.

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Past President of the Central States Numismatic Society and present member Board of Governors. Programs on coin club management and how to organize effective coin club activities.

Kevin Foley ..... P. O. Box 589, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201 — (414) 282-2388
Editor of The Centinel, *programs on U.S. paper money, including National Bank Notes, Fractional Currency, Large Size Notes, and Obsolete Notes.*

Rich Hartzog ..... P. O. Box 4143, Rockford, Ill. 61110 — (815) 226-0771
Author of numerous articles and several books on tokens and medals. Programs on tokens and medals and related exonumia.

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Past President of the American Numismatic Association. Current Legal Counsel for Central States Numismatic Society. Programs on general numismatic topics and numismatically related legal questions.

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Central States Numismatic Society 2nd Vice-President. Owner of SilverTowne Coin Shop. General numismatic subjects.

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President of Central States Numismatic Society. Member American Numismatic Association Board of Governors. General numismatic subjects.

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Author of numerous articles on Nebraska Obsolete Currency, Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Territorial Warrants and related subjects. Programs on these as well as general numismatic topics.

Florence Schook ..... P. O. Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154
Member of the Central States Numismatic Society Board of Governors, Vice President of American Numismatic Association. Programs of interest to young numismatists.

John Wilson ..... P. O. Box 27185, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227
Past President of Milwaukee Numismatic Society, Board member Society of Paper Money Collectors, American Numismatic Association District Representative. Programs on U. S. Paper Money and related topics.

GUEST OPINION

Is Numismatics Beginning To Die?

by Samuel W. Johnson, Jr. NLG

I frequently think about the future of our hobby. There are many things that have begun to bother me. As an officer of the Illinois Numismatic Association, I travel extensively to small coin shows and major conventions. The things I see trouble me, not only in Illinois but in other midwestern states.

What will the future hold for numismatics? First, we must look at our young generation. It is here that the future rests. There are presently more than 30 million young 18-24 year old adults in the United States. Several million more graduate yearly from high school and college. In ten years there will be another 30 million.

What awaits the young generation after graduation? A host of low paying jobs! A large percentage of our young adults are in serious financial trouble. Many are unemployed. Many work, of course, but where? They obtain low paying jobs at fast food restaurants where the turnover rate is 200-300 percent a year. Others work in large chain stores. Again, their wages are very low. Stunningly, many don't even have fringe benefits such as health insurance.

Others do not work 40-hour weeks. Although they work, it is only 20 or 30 hours a week. They, like their parents, want to get married and have children, and they will. However, financially they are doomed to life in a second hand house trailer and a ten year old car.

Obviously, a large percentage of an entire generation will not be able to become numismatists. They will, bluntly, never have the capital to begin collecting and acquiring numismatic material. Does anyone see anything to reverse this trend? Unfortunately, the young do not have the same opportunities that the 30-60 year old generation had. It is quite sad because they want to work.

Now we will shift to the older generation. Presently, there are approximately 35 million senior eitizens 65 or older in our nation. Admittedly, a small percentage have a good retirement life in such states as Florida, Arizona or California. Most, however, remain "where their roots are." These are the huge majority and they face serious financial trouble in the future. This large segment of our population will inerease to about 45 million by the year 2000.

These retirees receive fixed income retirement cheeks or their pensions are periodically increased slightly. During the past five or six years utility rate increases have continually eroded the purchasing power of their income. Millions of retirees now scrimp whenever possible just to survive.

What awaits them in the future? Higher utility eosts, higher taxes, and higher inflation. If they have any silver or gold coins or other numismatic material, they will be forced to sell, if they haven't previously done so. Who will purchase their material? The dealer, of course. But who will the dealer sell to? He can't sell to the majority of the young or the old because they won't have the money to buy.

As our older generation dies, this scenario will repeat itself over and over between now the turn of the century. It is inevitable. In the closing years of this decade, when inflation again raises its head and roars, it will in fact accelerate like a snowball rolling downhill.

Friends, I believe that the future of numismaties is elearly in trouble. The ripple effeet of the eonditions I have described will be tremendous. I tend to believe that the numismatists of the future will be an elite and wealthy group. I also feel it is inevitable that membership in various numismatic groups will begin to decline dramatically, perhaps as soon as later in this decade.

The grass roots, small town coin club has already begun to feel the effect. Here in Illinois many clubs have disbanded during the past decade. Other clubs are clinging to survival because of the hard work of a few older members, but they are doomed. They have few or no new members from the younger generation. I unfortunately believe they will not survive another decade.

Now let's look at convention exhibitors. They, too, are beginning to deeline in numbers. Major conventions have had an erratic exhibiting response for several years, but the trend is down. Some small coin elubs do not even have exhibits anymore. Other small elubs are so strapped that they don't even "year date" their trophies anymore. This way they ean be used next year, the year after, or even the year after that.

What ean be done to draw exhibitors? Many organizations now offer cash prizes or eoins for winning exhibits. Others offer free banquet tickets to all exhibitors. While this is good, I also believe it won't stem the declining tide of exhibitors ranks. With young and old adults financially unable to acquire numismatic material, what will the future of exhibiting be by the turn of the century?

Now let's eonsider the investors. These are people who aequire numismatic material primarily for financial return rather than for hobby considerations. The investor does not care about anything exeept money and profit. He is involved in numismatics for financial gain only. We are all investors to a certain extent, but we numismatists are a different breed. The hobby needs investors because they are a powerful financial force. However, I believe the investors will eventually harm our hobby. They will not exhibit nor will they write articles for numismatic publieations.

The investors are becoming more and more powerful and will continue to grow in numbers. They don't care about joining numismatic organizations and won't. They will not want to associate with the small collcetor. Again, this is

bad news for our hobby's future. The investor syndrome is undeniable. They exist.

Unemployment! Obviously if people are unemployed they can not become numismatists. Our government admits to a current unemployment rate of about 8 percent, or nearly 9 million people. This figure is a farce because millions who are unemployed aren't counted. If a person's unemployment checks have stopped, or if they have been unemployed so long that they've become discouraged and stopped looking for work, they are no longer counted in the official figures.

Every three to six years our country experiences a recession. Unemployment soars. The most recent recession was very serious. The endless cycle of high and low unemployment will probably continue for the forseeable future. Again, a cross section of perhaps 15 million people can not and will not become numismatists. Their wages will be saved for future bad times and will be used for living expenses.

We all know that our nation minted silver and gold coins. Now we have copper-nickel and zinc coins. Undoubtedly, these too will become more expensive to make than the face value they represent. I believe that plastic will be the coinage material of the future. Who'll collect plastic?

As silver prices rise dramatically in the future, more and more coins will be melted. This will be bad news for collectors as the decining supply will mean steadily higher prices. The supply of surviving gold coins and numismatic currency is relatively constant. As prices increase for these numismatic items only the elite will be able to afford them.

Because of the conditions mentioned in this article, I believe numismatics is clearly entering a contracting phase. I sincerely believe that this contraction cannot be denied or avoided. I wonder, friends, is numismatics beginning to die?

-:- -:- -:-

The author, a frequent contributor to the Centinel, *recipient of the Central States Numismatic Society's Elston Bradfield Literary Award and an active worker in organized numismatics in the Central States area, presents some disturbing thoughts for our consideration. Has he correctly identified a trend we should all be concerned with or do his views overstate the situation? I'm sure many of our members must have their own opinion on the subject. To share it with the rest of us, contact the Editor, Kevin Foley, P. O. Box 589, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.*

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Postal Notes: Fractional Currency's Forgotten Child

by Charles Surasky, ANA LM 2544

The era of the Civil War witnessed the birth of an extremely popular item for collectors: Paper currency. Due to the hoarding of copper, silver and gold coins — the only real "money" authorized by the framers of our Constitution — the Treasury Department issued its first currency. The larger denominations, with face values from 5 to 20 dollars, were called Demand Notes. The smaller denominations, with face values from 3 cents to 50 cents, were called Postage Currency or Fractional Currency.

The small denomination notes were used extensively by the public in everyday commerce and were especially handy to those who had to send small sums of money through the mail. Though the security for such transmissions was limited — postal theft was a more common problem then — the notes had the advantage of slight size and low bulk. They were easily concealed in a folded piece of paper in an envelope, which greatly increased the probability of delivery.

In the mid-1870's, the crisis had passed. Sufficient gold and silver coins circulated to permit the Treasury Department to halt the issuance of all fractional currency. Silver coins worth some $369 million were issued to retire all notes with face values below one dollar.

But the problem of sending small sums to distant places remained. The public demanded something to replace the fractional notes. The government's answer to this public outcry was the Postal Note.

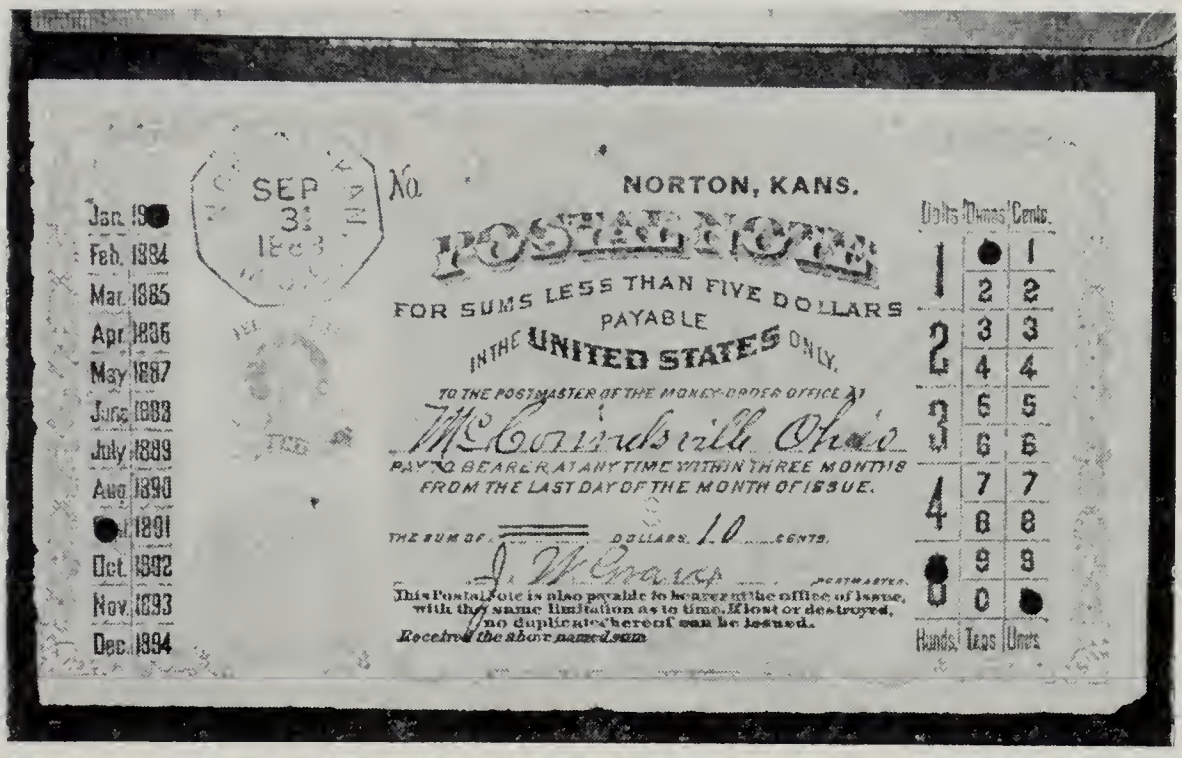
Postal Notes were first given thought in 1875. Recognizing the imminent end of the fractional currency and its extensive use as a facilitator for sending small sums through the mail, the government began thinking about a substitute. Their goal was to make this new note convenient to obtain and easy to use. It should fit into an ordinary letter-size envelope. It should be engraved and printed on banknote paper, with effective guards against counterfeiting. And it should be simple to fill-in and understand.

The years passed as committees studied the problem. Then, in 1882, the American Express Company initiated a private money order system. Proded by this competition, Congress passed H. R. 5661, the legislation which introduced Postal Notes.

To tweak the collective nose of the American Express Company, the fee for issuance for Postal Notes was set at 3 cents. A 5 cents fee was required by American Express.

The significant points of the legislation included: • The postal note shall be issued by post offices for sums less than $5. • It shall be issued without notification to the paying office. • It shall be payable at a specific post office. • They shall be numbered consecutively for each office of issue. • They shall be printed in sheets on thin bank note paper from engraved plates.

The issuance of the new notes was restricted to the largest 63,000 post offices, to be sure each issuing office also had sufficient funds available to cash all notes presented. Because the larger offices were located in population



Despite the impossible date in the postmark, this note was sold on the first day of issue, September 3, 1883. It cost the buyer 13 cents and was cashable only in McConnelsville, Ohio. An outstanding example of Homer Lee's Type I note. (Postal Note photography by Edward J. Berns.)

centers, New England, the mid-Atlantic and the mid-West states issued Postal Notes in large numbers. The South, Southwest, Mountain and Northwest states issued far fewer notes.

The Homer Lee Years

The Homer Lee Bank Note Company was awarded the first four-year contract to design, engrave and produce Postal Notes in the spring of 1883. On Monday, September 3, 1883 the sale of Postal Notes began throughout the nation. Note number 1 in Washington, D. C. was issued to Postmaster-General Gresham.

The first design used for Postal Notes was printed on yellow paper, featured spaces for the issuing clerk to punch the month and year of issue and the dollars, dimes and cents of face value. In ink, he had to fill in the cashing office, the face value and the postmaster's name. With his rubber postmark stamp, he validated the upper circle. These notes are called Type I by collectors and they are among the most commonly encountered of the six types.

Prodded by the government, the Homer Lee Bank Note Company improved the design and released the second design in early 1884. It is easily identified as Type II because it was produced on a white paper.

In 1887, Congress directed that Postal Notes be cashable at any money order office, not just one named on the note. Rubber stamps were produced which read "ANY MONEY ORDER OFFICE" and were sent to all issuing offices. They used these rubber stamps to fill-in the line which previously was used to name the paying office. Type II postal notes stamped "ANY MONEY ORDER OFFICE" are referred to as Type II-A.

To comply with the new law, the Homer Lee engraving department cut the words "ANY MONEY ORDER OFFICE" into the Type II printing plates.

Orders for this design, called Type III, were limited to those received between January, 1887 when the law was passed, and September, 1887 when the new contract took effect. Type III Postal Notes are the rarest of all regularly-issued notes of the 1883-1894 series.

The American Years

In stark contrast to the turbulent years of the first contract, only one design was needed for the second four years of Postal Note production. The contract was awarded to the American Bank Note Company. They placed T. F. Morris in charge of designing their version of the Postal Note. At first glance, American's Type IV note looks like Homer Lee's Type II. But that is deceiving. Morris was aware of the many design changes during the previous four years and wanted no problems with his design. He kept the major elements in place, but altered the small details.

Morris, a prolific designer and engraver, is perhaps best remembered for his work on the $1, $2 and $5 silver certificates of 1896, called the "Educational Series" by collectors.

Dunlap & Clarke: The Curtain Closes

The third and final contract to produce Postal Notes was awarded to Dunlap & Clarke, a Philadelphia firm. Unlike the first two contractors, Dunlap & Clarke made no changes to the design, with one small exception: They removed the logo of the American Bank Note Company and replaced it with their own!

The final day of sale was set for June 30, 1894. Souvenir hunters got so busy that Dunlap & Clarke's Type IV Postal Note is the most commonly found design.

Government records indicate the sale of 70.8 million Postal Notes between 1883 and 1894. The total face value was more than $126 million and the average face value just under $2 each.

Of the 70 plus million issued, only some 600 are accounted for today. What happened to the remaining notes? They were used as planned, cashed, sent to Washington, D. C. for verification, then destroyed to prevent fraudulent re-use.

Born the child of fractional currency, Postal Notes died in the depression of the mid-1890's. Gone but not forgotten.

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The Historical U. S. Nickel

by David Massey, J-3931

The United States nickel or five cent piece has a rich and varied history. In telling about the past, it in itself has created its own story. The roots of this coin go back to one of the most historical events in American heritage: The Civil War.

The economic problems of this era brought about a shortage of small change. Civil War merchant tokens, government fractional currency, and encased postage stamps were the only things around; the public was hoarding most silver coinage for its intrinsic value. When the war was over, a new five-cent coin was proposed to eventually replace the silver half dimes and to restore order and uniformity to small change. The new issue, which would be 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel, was to be bigger than the dime but smaller than the quarter to keep the mtallic values proportional. The idea was well acelaimed and soon plans were underway.

The mint assigned the task of designing the new issue to James B. Longacre, despite his reputation as an incompetent engraver. Because of his lack of skill and the general inexperience with the hard alloy, many die

Figure 1

A typical Washington "trial" strike for a new five-cent piece from 1866. It bears the motto, "God and our Country."

crack varieties were produced. Longacre designed several trail pieces with the busts of Washington (Figure 1) and Lincoln, and several different mottos , such as "God and Our Country" and "In God We Trust." Since there are so many different pattern strikes, the speculation arises that most of these were not made as trail pieces but for selling to the public (1).

Usually Longacre derived his designs from other coins. This time he used the two-cent piece as a model. The "new" engraving displayed a shield on the obverse from which it got its name, the Shield nickel. On the reverse was a large "5" encircled with 13 stars with rays between each. The latter caused striking problems. As a result, the mint removed the rays in 1867, creating a second type. A rumor swept the nation that the "without rays" was a counterfeit (2). The Shield nickel was last struck in 1883.

In 1881, the mint directed Charles E. Barber to design a new uniform series to replace the current one-cent, three-cent, and five-cent pieces. Trail strikes were made with a symbolic portrait of the Greek goddess Diana on the obverse, with the Roman numerals I, III, and V on the reverse (Figure 2). Finally the mint officials decided to use only the five-cent coin.

This new design bred fraud in more ways than one. It led to the birth of the famous "racketeer" nickel. Some clever opportunists quickly discovered that there was no mark of denomination except "V" on the new coins. Many were gold-plated, and some even had reeded edges; therefore, they could pass for a new five dollar gold coin. A common way to deceive with this coin proved to be a good and safe one. A person would enter a local

Figure 2 — Charles E. Barber's pattern coins for the proposed I, III, and V cent coins.

country store to buy a three-cent item such as a cigar. He would put the item on the counter with a gold - plated nickel. If the clerk had seen the new nickels, the customer would get his two cents in change. If not, the clerk would give $4.97 in change. When these offenders were caught, they could never be prosecuted. Excuses such as, "I knew it was a nickel, he just gave me too much change," proved to be valid (3). As a result, the word CENTS had to be added to the reverse. Since the "no cents" variety was hoarded, today they are more common than the revised variety of that year.

The second scandal surrounding the "V" Nickel occurred in 1913. The striking of these coins was intended to end in 1912 at Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. For some reason, five unauthorized 1913 Liberty nickels were struck. There are several theories of how this situation came about. It is known that dies for the 1913 Liberty nickel were made because the new Buffalo nickel plans were not complete in time. Trail strikes from this die may have been kept by the mint to trade later for other coins needed in the mint's collection, or to sell to collectors. This may also explain such mint "errors" as the 1913 Buffalo nickel without initials and the 1913 Buffalo nickel in solid copper. Pattern strikes were not uncommon in those days because all one had to do to abscond with a trail strike was to pay eight cents to the Proof and Medal Fund for each! Also, a mint employee may have struck or acquired the pieces while working "overtime." (4)

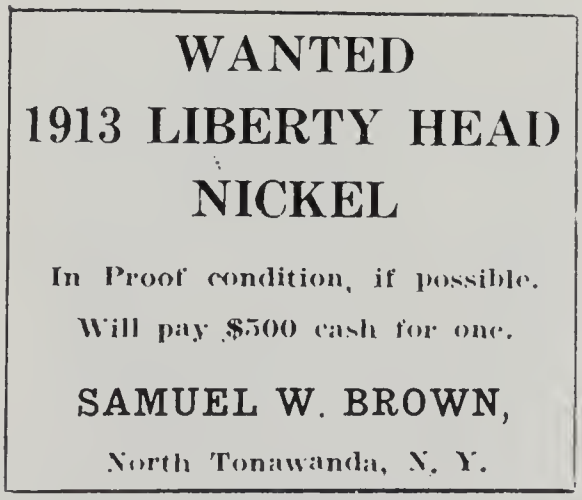

Figure 3

Samuel Brown used advertisements like this to introduce the 1913 Liberty nickels to the public.

Much of the above leads to one person — Samuel Brown. He worked as a mint shopkeeper at the time. Seven years later, he was the first to advertise as a buyer for these coins (Figure 3). He may have done this for two reasons: to make it seem like he had bought them, or to create a high market price for the pieces he may have already had. Later when he boasted of owning five of these rare nickels, he never specifically said where he got the coins (5).

When the time came to replace the nickel, the mint did not invite the current engraver, Charles E. Barber, to redesign it because of the general displeasure with his works. Instead they commissioned James E. Fraser to engrave a new five-cent piece. Fraser decided to make a truly American coin. He chose the two groups who had paid the highest price in the "winning of the west" — the Indian and the Buffalo. The absence of the motto "In God We Trust" might symbolize the lack of hope for them (6).

Much of the interest concerning the Buffalo or Indian head nickel focuses on the models used for the symbolic design. Among the Indians who claimed fame as a model for the obverse was Chief Two Moons White Calf; Fraser denied his claim. Other than this comment, Fraser did not say much about the models he used because he was more interested in a type of an Indian than individual portraits (7). However, Fraser's wife revealed that there were three models: Chief Iron Trail, a Sioux who probably modeled the cheek, chin, and mouth; Chief Two Moons, a Northern Cheyenne who most likely modeled the hair and braids; and Chief John Big Tree, the most famous of the three, modeled the nose and possibly the forehead. All three were working in minor roles in New York's wild west shows at the time. It is believed that Big Tree alone played over 100 western roles in 35 years (8). He toured the United States as "the head on the Buffalo Nickel" in his later years, until his death in 1967 at the claimed age of 102. Historians from the Onodaga Reservation where he died said he was 92. Regardless of how old he was, he got a lot more mileage out of the Buffalo Nickel than his counterparts, who died in 1927 and 1917, respectively.

Although never directly stated by Fraser, it is believed that the model for the reverse was Black Diamond, a famous 1550 pound attraction at the Central Park Zoo. When he became disabled and arthritic in 1915, the zoo put him up for auction and received no bids. A private slaughter company bought him for $300. To no avail, citizens tried to buy him back for $1000. Black Diamond's head was mounted, and his hide was made into a robe, present location unknown. Coincidentally, he was the model for the $10 Legal Tender Note, Series 1901.

The public heavily critized the new Buffalo nickel. The raised mound on which the buffalo stood created stacking problems. The American Numismatic Association complained that the date and mint mark wore away too easily. The mint was forced to correct the problems of stacking and the mint mark by creating "Type II" with the buffalo standing on a flat line and the denomination and mint mark placed on the field. This change also corrected some roughness in the field under the buffalo. Generally, the coin was critized for having too much design for so small a coin. The letters were too jumbled and crammed together. That assessment is true; in fact, Fraser said he would have left them off if they had not been required by law (9).

When the new nickel was released, many creative and artistic hobos (generally talented, intelligent, versatile, hard-working, and honest wanderers) saw the potential for reshaping the Indian's head into other likenesses. Most of these "hobo nickels" were

made around the Great Depression to pass idle time, buy a meal, or to store memories. Shopkeepers of the era jumped on the bandwagon and made their own tokens distinguished by the hat detail. Prisoners on chain gangs began to carve nickels to gain favors from the guards who often gave them short engraving tools. Since the hobo nickels have become popular, many modern etchings have been made to deceive unwary collectors (10).

Figure 4
A typical pushed metal (raised ear) hobo nickel carving by Bo.

These coins demonstrate different levels of quality based largely on the method and skill of carving. The most desirable type is the "pushed metal" method, in which the carver moved portions of the metal to raise the ear or hat brim (Figure 4). The next best variety is the type on which different amounts of metal were carved away to create the intended design. The lowest quality coins are usually ones "punched" with a metal stamp.

The most famous hobo nickel carvers were "Bert" and "Bo." Bert, who signed his coins by removing the "LI" and "Y" of "LIBERTY," taught Bo (George Washington Hughes) the facts of life and how to carve nickels. Bert taught Bo to strive for perfection, and Bo did just that until a crippling accident in 1957. After that Bo began to use the punch method, and the quality of his work went slowly downhill until his presumed death in 1980 (11).

There are several notable varieties of the Buffalo Nickel that have been discovered. The distinct 1916/1916 double die and the 1918/7 D repunched date have been widely publicized. The expert numismatist Q. David Bowers discovered the 1938 D/S repunched mint mark in 1961. The most famous variety is the 1938 D three-legged buffalo. The middle part of one of the buffalo's legs was obliterated on the die leaving a blank space on the coin.

When the Buffalo nickel's minimum of 25 years were up, the mint was eager to replace it. They decided to have a contest for the best design honoring the late President Thomas Jefferson. This decision established the transition from symbols to portraits on our coinage (12). The mint invited over 400 engravers to compete for $1000 and the new nickel design. Felix Oscar Schlag's bust of Jefferson and his breath-taking side view of Monticello design (Figure 5) won the competition. However, the mint reserved the right to make changes, and

Figure 5
Felix Oscar Schlag's original design for the reverse of the Jefferson nickel.

that they did. The stylish lettering was modified to regular print, and Jefferson's bust was made to look more stern. They completely eliminated the reverse in favor of a front view of the building that may be compared to a Roman mausoleum. To prevent this, the word "Monticello" appears below the building. Schlag was so disgusted with the changes that he left his initials off the finished product (13). The mint added them after he died in 1966.

When our nation entered World War II, nickel became an essential military material. A temporary substitute metal had to be found. A mixture of 56% copper, 34% silver, and 9% manganese became the new alloy. To signify the change, the mint enlarged the mint mark and put it over the dome of the building. The mint mark "P" for Philadelphia was first used on these "wartime nickels." The public showed little if any reaction to the new coins that appeared in mid-1942 and were discontinued in 1945. The mint returned to the previous alloy and mint mark in 1946, and the same basic coin is struck to date.

The recent interest in well struck coins has introduced the "full-step Jefferson nickel." This is a system of counting the number of steps visible on the building. "Full-step" coins (five or six steps visible) often demand a high premium. Then there are such categories as 4½ steps, 2¾ steps, and 1¼ steps. These lower classifications do not really influence the price of the coin, but they offer an interesting pasttime for members of the Full-Step Jefferson Nickel Club, "PAC." It also provides another nice way to overgrade.

To say the least, the nickel is historically a very interesting coin. Its roots lie in the Civil War, and it made a good start with the Shield nickel. Fraud marked the Liberty nickel's entrance and grand exit. Colorful ideas, models, varieties, and alterations made the Buffalo nickel a remarkable series. The long-running Jefferson nickel has given us stability for four and one-half decades. Are we due for a change? Maybe we will soon have another member to add to the family of the historical United States nickels.

Footnotes

1 Q. D. Bowers, **Adventures with Rare Coins** (Los Angeles, CA.: Bowers & Ruddy, 1971), p. 8.
2 **Ibid,** p. 8.
3 **Ibid,** p. 10.
4 **Ibid,** p. 13.
5 **Ibid,** p. 13.
6 "Fraser's Nickel Especially American," **Coin World,** May 1977.
7 A. R. Cohen and R. M. Drulen, **The Buffalo Nickel** (Arlington, VA.: Potomac Enterprises, 1979), p. 17.
8 **Ibid,** p. 23.
9 **Ibid,** p. 13-14.
10 D. K. Romines, **Hobo Nickels** (Newbury Park, CA.: Lonesome John Pub. Co., 1982), pp. 7-12.
11 **Ibid,** pp. 51-73.
12 R. S. Yeoman, **A Guide Book of United States Coins,** 36th Edition (Racine, WI.: Western Pub. Co., 1982), p. 96.
13 T. Hudgeons, **The Historical U. S. Coin Collection** (New York, NY.: House of Collectibles, 1973), pp. 61-63.

Alexander Hamilton served as the first Secretary of the Treasury.

CORRECTION

The Winter 1983 issue of The Centinel *containing biographical information on the candidates for positions on the Board of Governors incorrectly listed the age of one of the candidates, Ed Richt. Mr. Richt's correct age is 72.* The Centinel *regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.*

SHOW CALENDAR

Show Chairmen are invited to send announcements of upcoming coin shows in the Central States region. The Show Calendar is intended to assist collectors and dealers in planning their show attendance. It is also designed to aid show sponsors in avoiding date conflicts. Show dates will be listed up to 24 months in advance and show sponsors are encouraged to submit dates for future shows through June of 1986. Please include the city where the show will be held, official name of show, show dates and location, as well as the name, address and phone number of the show or bourse chairman. Send to: Kevin Foley, P. O. Box 589, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

FORT DODGE, IOWA — SEPTEMBER 28 - 30, 1984

Iowa Numismatic Association Convention and Coin Show. Holiday Inn, Highway 169 South. Mike Scacci, 216 10th Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — SEPTEMBER 28 - 30, 1984

Milwaukee Numismatic Society 50th Annual Fall Coin Show, MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn Avenue. A. P. "Del" Bertschy, 3939 North Murray Avenue, Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211.

APPLETON, WISCONSIN — OCTOBER 14, 1984

Appleton Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show. Country Aire, 23311 West Spencer Avenue. Robert Worachek, 229 East College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin 54902.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY — OCTOBER 20 - 21, 1984

Kentucky State Numismatic Assn. Annual Convention and Coin Show. Ramada Inn Bluegrass Convention Center, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway. Mike Scshmidt, 6310 Upper Hunters Trace, Shivley, Kentucky 40216.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS — OCTOBER 21, 1984

Rockford Area Coin Club 56th Semi-Annual Coin Show. Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Highway 251 South and U. S. 20 Interchange. Ralph Winquist, P. O. Box 1974, Rockford, Illinois 61109.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS — OCTOBER 26-28, 1984

10th Annual Chicago Fall Coin Show. Ramada O'Hare Inn, Higgins and Mannheim Roads, Rosemont. Numisco Rare Coins, 1423 West Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614. (312) 528-8800

TOLEDO, OHIO — OCTOBER 26 - 28, 1984

Toledo Rainbow Coin Show. Sheraton Westgate Inn, 3536 Secor Road at I-475 Exit 17 South. Ron Nelson, P. O. Box 22673, Cleveland, Ohio 44122. (216) 338-3181

OMAHA, NEBRASKA — NOVEMBER 3-4, 1984

Omaha Coin Club 50th Anniversary Coin Show and Auction. Holiday Inn, I-80 and 72nd Street. Ralph Reeves, 1027 South 90th Street, Omaha, NE 68114. (402) 393-4143

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN — NOVEMBER 3, 1984

Kalamazoo Numismatic Club Annual Coin Show. Kalamazoo County Center Building, 2900 Lake Street. Russell F. Barr, P. O. Box 462, Portage, Michigan 49081.

DAYTON, OHIO — NOVEMBER 2 - 4, 1984

14th Semi-Annual Fall Greater Dayton Area Coin Exposition. Dayton Convention and Exposition Center, 5th and Main Streets. Ron Crouch, 188 Lynnhaven Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45431. (513) 254-9589

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — NOVEMBER 8-11, 1984

Fifth National Silver Dollar Convention. Cervantes Convention Center, 801 Convention Plaza. John Highfill, P. O. Box 470849, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74147. (918) 252-1563.

CINCINNATI, OHIO — NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2, 1984

Cincinnati Rainbow Coin Show. Marriott Inn, I-75 Sharon Road Exit 15 West. Ron Nelson, P. O. Box 22673, Cleveland, Ohio 44122. (216) 338-3181

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS — DECEMBER 7-9, 1984

N. O. I. S. E. Holiday Coin, Stamp and Jewelry Show. Rosemont Exposition Center, 5600 North River Road. Joseph Irmen, 1108 West Devon, Suite 216, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007. (312) 980-3200.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 1985

21st Annual Greater America Coin Fair, Marriott Airport Motor Inn. Bill Armstrong, 327 Northwest Plaza, St. Ann, Missouri 63074.

RACINE, WISCONSIN — MARCH 2-3, 1985

Racine Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show. Sheraton Motor Inn, Highway 20 East from I-94 Exit 333. John Barke, P. O. Box 1222, Racine, Wisconsin 53405.

APPLETON, WISCONSIN — MARCH 3, 1985

Appleton Coin Club Annual Spring Coin Show. Country Aire, 23311 West Spencer Avenue. Robert Worachek, 229 East College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin 54902.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — APRIL 12 - 14, 1985

South Shore Coin Club 22nd Annual Coin Show. MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn Avenue. John Wilson, P. O. Box 27185, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227. (414) 545-8636

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA — APRIL 25 - 28, 1985

Central States Numsimatic Society Annual Convention and Coin Show. Dick Grinolds, P. O. Box 18002, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418.

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN — MAY 3-5, 1985

Detroit Rainbow Coin Show, Holiday Inn Livonia West, I-275 and Six Mile Road East. Ron Nelson, P. O. Box 22673, Cleveland, Ohio 44122. (216) 338-3181.

APPLETON, WISCONSIN — MAY 25-26, 1985

Numismatists of Wisconsin 25th Annual Coin Show. Paper Valley Hotel, 333 West College Avenue. Robert Worachek, 229 East College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin 54902.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA — JUNE 7-9, 1985

Indiana State Numismatic Association Annual Convention and Coin Show. Indiana Convention Center, 100 South Capital Avenue. Jerry Lebo, P. O. Box 44337, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — JULY 12-14, 1985

MidAmerica Coin Show. MECCA Convention Center, 6th and Kilbourn Streets. Kevin Foley, P. O. Box 589, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. (414) 282-2388.

WATERLOO, IOWA — SEPTEMBER 20-22, 1985

Iowa Numismatic Association Annual Convention and Coin Show. Conway Civic Center and Holiday Inn, 4th and Commercial Streets. Jim Hamling, I. E. Tower, Suite 101, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — SEPTEMBER 27-29, 1985

Milwaukee Numismatic Society 51st Annual Fall Coin Show. MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn Streets.

FUTURE CSNS CONVENTIONS

1985 — April 25 - 28 ..... Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chairman: Dick Grinolds, Box 18002, Minneapolis, Minn. 55418

1986 — April 2 - 5 ..... Kansas City, Missouri
Chairman: Ralph Hardman, 4809 Belinder Ct., Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66205

1987 — May 7 - 10 ..... St. Louis, Missouri
Chairman: Ron Horstman, 6137 Victoria Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63139

1988 — April 7 - 10 ..... Indianapolis, Indiana

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS

Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It isn't too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

Milwaukee Calling

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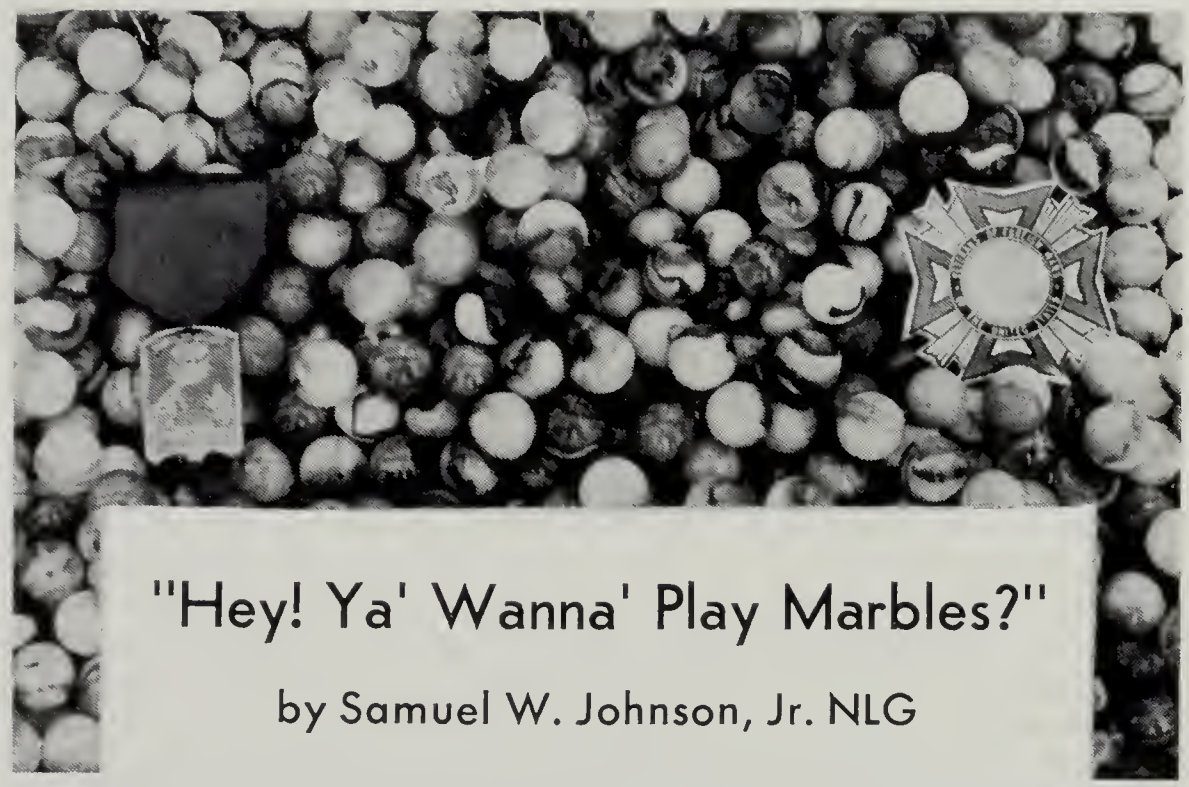
The Milwaukee Numismatic Society's 49th Annual Coin Show last October was the largest and finest club sponsored show in the north central United States in 1983



"Hey! Ya' Wanna' Play Marbles?"

by Samuel W. Johnson, Jr. NLG

Do you remember the game of marbles? When school was "out for the summer," it was once an extremely popular sport. Many of you, I'm sure, are unaware that there were National Marble Tournaments from 1947-62. These were sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and were quite gala and formal affairs.

This article will feature the medals from these tournaments, the tournaments themselves, three of the nation's best players, plus items related to the game. But, for those of you who never played marbles, here is some background information.

Literally tens of millions of young boys and quite a large number of girls were marble players during the game's peak years of the 1930's to the late 1960's. It was mostly a boy's game, though. I vividly remember, because you see, I was one of them! We'd get out of bed on a summer morning, have a large breakfast, do a few chores, and mosey around the house deciding what to do.

Many days, it wouldn't take us long to decide! We'd grab a couple a' handfuls of marbles, stuff them in our pocket, and out the door we'd go. Many players had small custom-made bags to carry their marbles. Of course, our shooter marble (taw) would be by itself in a separate pocket.

You must understand that every player's shooter marble supposedly had some kind of super natural power. Expert players even had faith in their taws, but the masses of average players believed more strongly that their shooter was a very special marble.

Armed with the faith that our taw wouldn't let us down that day, we'd jump on our bicycle (or walk) and begin looking for a game in progress. If there wasn't one to be found, we'd stop by several friends' houses and say, "Hey! Ya' wanna' play marbles?" One way or another, the competition would begin. The games were played in back yards, vacant lots, dirt roads, or anywhere that there was an area of flat dirt. Two players would play a game with others watching.

If we had previously played (and defeated) our opponent, we would be bold and play "eightsies" or "tensies." (Each player would place eight or ten marbles inside of the circle drawn in the dirt.) If we knew that our opponent was "a pretty good player," we would only agree to twosies or threesies. The majority of the time we "played for keeps;" i.e., each player kept the marbles he won. Many played for "funsies." No-one would lose marbles this way.

From 8-12 feet away, each player would "lag" (toss) his toward the circle of marbles. The closest one to the circle got to "blast away" (shoot) first. Here is where the taw's super-natural power took over! They were supposed to be accurate "stickers." They weren't supposed to roll away after we knuckled down, shot, and knocked a marble out of the ring! That way, we could shoot again and again, repeatedly knocking marbles out of the circle! "Doubs" and "Trips" occurred when you knocked two or three marbles out on one shot.

There would be arguments and trouble if any player repeatedly "fudged" (it was considered fudging if one picked up his taw to shoot, and in doing so, crept an inch or so closer to the marble he intended to shoot at). We all watched our opponents intently to see if he "cheated" in this manner.

Occasional fights occurred because of fudging. They were usually limited to shoving, wrestling, or a few wild right hand punches thrown. The worst that happened was a bloody nose, a few scratches, or perhaps a black eye. They certainly were not serious fights. The opponents, perhaps glaring at each other, would probably play marbles together again in a day or two. You might say that, as small boys, we were quite competitive!

The author played marbles extensively in the early 1950's and was, at best, a break-even player. Oh, I myself missed many shots, but most of the time I would blame my misses on my taw! Like many other players, I even traded some of my "jinxed" taws. We giggled inside like evil devils, because now another player had our jinxed taw and certainly would have no better success than we had! We would choose another from our cache of marbles.

In this era, steelies were very popular and prized possessions. These were shiny round ball bearings. They were rarely used in games. Many of us would literally beg train engineers for steelies. A few days later, upon hearing the train whistle, we'd jump on our bicycles and peddle like demons toward the railroad tracks.

The engineer, if he was the same one, would see us and as the train moved slowly through town, would gently toss a handful of assorted size steelies near us along the track. Like a pack of greedy hungry dogs, we frantically searched for them! Looking back, many of these engineers were good men.

Oh! Then there were "boulders." Everyone had to have a few of them! Boulders were very large marbles, with some being the same diameter as a silver dollar. Like steelies, boulders were rarely used in games. They were mainly collector items and conversation pieces.

After a few hours or an afternoon of playing marbles, we would be hungry and head for home. Friends, we were a sad sight! Our hands and the knees of our trousers were very dirty and dusty. If we stomped our feet, clouds of dust would jump off of our shoes. There must have been an ounce of dirt under each fingernail!

If it was very hot that day, dirt and sweat would blend and our faces would have dirt smeared all over them! The sleeves of our shirts were very dirty because we wiped our faces on them. Our mothers were horrified when we set

foot inside the house! We caught heck, and quickly began to clean up. But, we knew that tomorrow would be another day to play marbles!

I can remember my mother washing clothes, running them through the washing machine wringer, and hanging them on the clothesline to dry. She knew that my clothes would meet the same fate over and over again. It's no wonder mothers prayed for rainy days and for school to begin again! Multiply the above scenes times many millions and you have the extent of marble playing boys! Friends, millions of us loved the game of marbles! Although I may have forgotten a few things, you at least now know what it was like to be a marble player.

The V. F. W. National Tournaments

Many of you may think "why did the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization sponsor a national tournament? Was the massive amount of time and labor worth it?" Mr. Charles C. Ralls, Commander in Chief of the V. F. W. in 1951, certainly believed so! His words will convince many of you that it was a worthwhile project:

"The game of marbles helps teach the important requirements for good citizenship. It might be well if a lot of grownups learned to play the game.

To reach the marble championship class, one has to develop persistence and calm judgement. One has to have skill and a determination to do the job well. Also, the game of marbles calls for fair play and right attitudes. Every player is as good as his shooting. A good loser always comes up smiling.

Those are also the rules which every citizen should follow to get the most out of the American way of life. That's what makes marbles important as well as a lot of fun.

More than one million men who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars have fought overseas to preserve our freedom of opportunity. They declare that democracy begins at home. They believe that the community is the place in which young Americans should practice good sportsmanship, clean competition, and the sense of fair play.

Those are the reasons the Veterans of Foreign Wars has sponsored marble tournaments in national popularity.

Millions of American boys have participated in V. F. W. school, city, district, state, and national marble contests since 1947. Many others will want to qualify for the privilege of entering the V. F. W. 1951 National Marble Tournament in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 21-22-23, 1951.

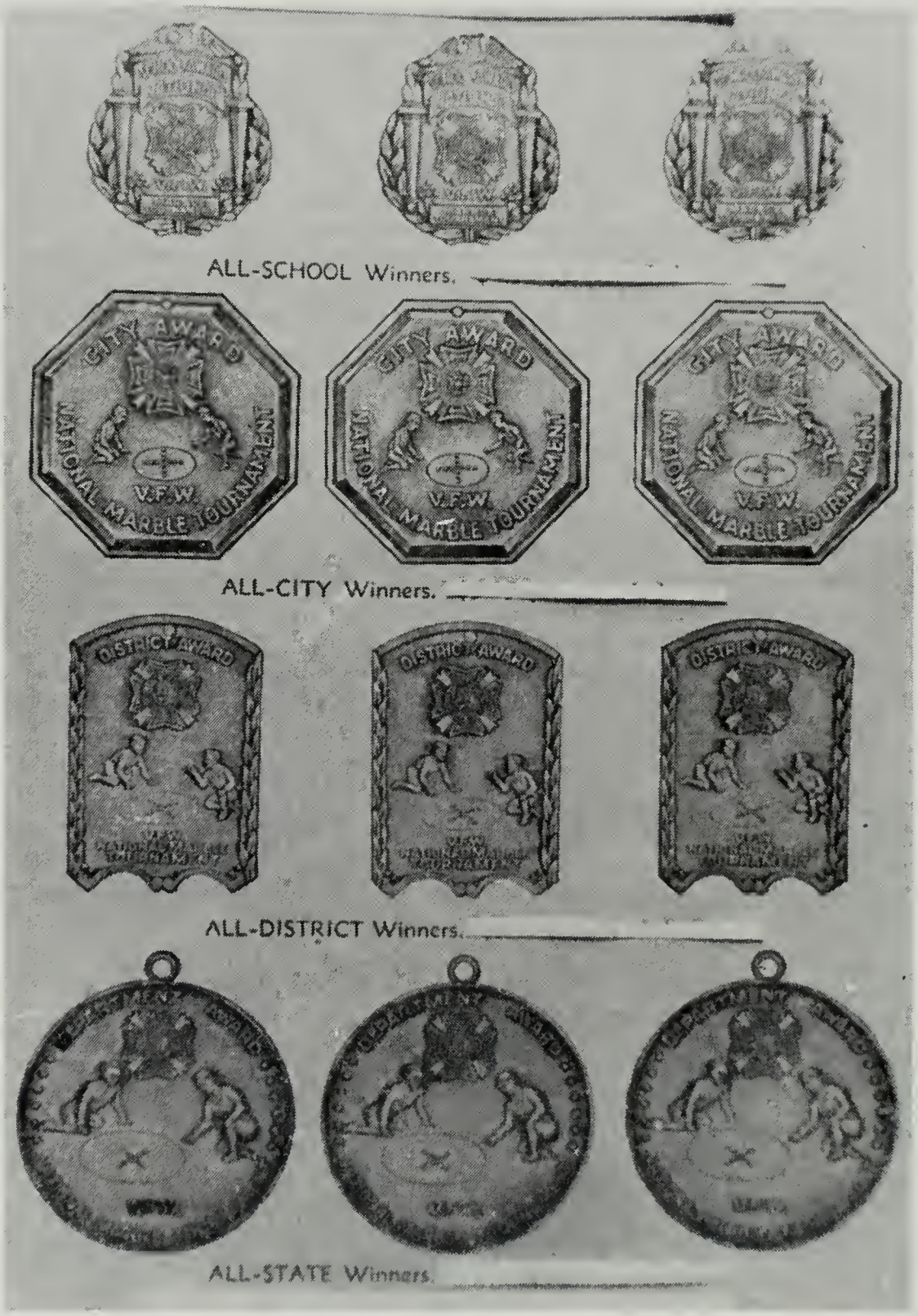
There will be big prizes for winners in the national tournament. But most important, there will be many opportunities for a lot of young fellows to prove that they have what it takes to become leaders among our citizens.

Every boy should be given the right to prove his best qualities — regardless of religious, racial or social status. I urge every V. F. W. member and Post to help make the 1951 Veterans of Foreign Wars Marble Tournament the best we have ever sponsored.

Arrange your local and regional contests, announce your awards, sign up the players, draw the circles, spot the marbles, then shout "take your lag — knuckles down — no fudging. Let's play!"

That will put young America into action. And where do we expect to meet the best man? Albuequerque."

Charles C. Ralls, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars



Above are the medal awards presented in the tournaments. Although first, second, and third place medals were of identical design, the color of the medals distinguished the difference. First place winners received a gold color medal with a blue ribbon attached. Second place winners received a silver color medal with red ribbon, third place received a bronze medal with white ribbon. The medals read, "V. F. W. National Marble Tournament" with the proper tournament eatured on each. The circle, cross with marbles, official V. F. W. insignia are also on each medal. The reverses are smooth.

Because the National Tournament was such a massive undertaking, it required the work of thousands of V. F. W. personnel. Mrs. George A. Ilg, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the V. F. W., made the following appeal in 1951. Her statements will further convince you that the tournaments were certainly worthwhile!

"The annual V. F. W. National Marble Tournament will take on added importance this year under the National Community Service program, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, for it offers each Auxiliary an opportunity to cooperate with its Post in promoting the contest locally, thereby serving both the youth and the community.

It is especially important today, in the face of increasing juvenile delinquency, that young Americans be encouraged to participate in character-building projects. In my opinion, the Marble Tournament is an outstanding example of this type project, for it instills in our boys an appreciation of fairness, honesty, and clean sportsmanship. It teaches them the importance of cooperating with a group and, at the same time, of possessing a keen, competitive spirit.

By implanting these basic principles of good citizenship in our young people, we are helping them to become better Americans. More than that, we are building a better America, for if these youngsters are aware of the priceless heritage they possess, they will not be taken in by the false theories of Communism. Instead, they will take up our fight against all subversive elements within our nation.

I sincerely hope that every member of the Ladies Auxiliary will accept her share of the responsibility in making the tournament in her own community a success. In this way, we can assure the success of the National Marble Tournament."

Mrs. George Ilg
National President
Ladies Auxiliary of the V. F. W.

Featured next are three of the nation's best marble players. They are/were residents of the author's hometown — Sparta, Illinois.

Ronnie Penny

According to newspaper accounts, Ronnie was "unruffled" in competition. At times, he actually appeared bored. Many people who saw him play state that he was the best marble player they ever saw.

Ronnie was a devastating power shooter, eyewitnesses say that he shot so hard and accurately that he sometimes split marbles in half. When this happened, he was credited with that marble and allowed to shoot again. Hit with such force, the split marble would have undoubtedly rolled outside of the ring.

In the 1957 Illinois State Tournament, Ronnie literally destroyed all of his opponents. He won many games by 7-0 and 7-1 scores. He was undefeated in the local, district, and state tournaments. Stunningly, newspaper accounts state that he seldom practiced between the local, district and state tournaments that year. He certainly displayed confidence in his ability!

Competing in the 1957 National Tournament, Ronnie placed 15th nationally. The tournament was held in Seattle, Washington. Ronnie had passed his 15th birthday prior to April 15th, and was therefore unable to compete in the 1958 tournament. Unfortunately, all of his medals were destroyed by fire.

This photo reveals all of the various state champions and special appointees to the 1957 National Marble Tournament. Ronnie Penny is third from the left in the second row from the bottom.

Ronnie was later a star athlete at Sparta High School, excelling in football, basketball and track. He certainly was one of the nation's best marble players.

Today, Mr. Penny works as a representative for a floor carpet firm in the Western United States. He prefers anonymity as close friends and relatives in Sparta do not know his eurrent address or telephone number. The author will eertainly respect his wish. Therefore, no reeent photograph of Mr. Penny will appear in this article nor will his current location be revealed.

Clarence "Gene" Laws

Although all three players featured in this artiele were superb players, Gene was the most successful. As a small 10-year-old boy, "little Gene" burst upon the scenc in 1958. He won the local, district and state championships!

In the finals of the state tournament that year, "little Gene" and the talented 14-year-old Chicago champion were both undcfeated. They faced each other with the winner being the Illinois State Champion! Before thc match began, thc Chicagoan, undoubtedly thought that he would quickly "finish off" this little kid from the Southern Illinois "hiek town."

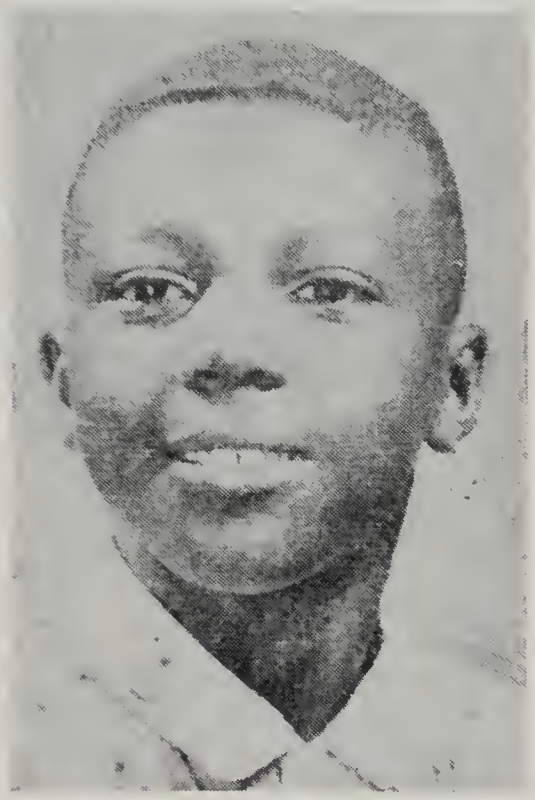
Gene stunned thc Chicago ehamp by winning the first game! The Chicagoan routcd Gcnc in the second game and had to think, "I'm gonna' get you now, little kid!" T'was not to bc, fricnds. Little Gene routcd the Chicagoan in the third gamc and beeame onc of the youngest statc champions cver!

Genc would later win thc 1961 and 1962 Illinois statc championships. Hc competed in national tournaments in Tueson, Arizona, in St. Paul, Minncsota, and in Michigan and Tennessee. His highcst finishes nationally wcrc 6th, 12th and 14th. Although he was defeated in the 1959 loeal tournament, he competed nationally that year as a "representative of the United Statcs Navy."

Gcnc was also a devastating power shooter. Like Ronnie Penny, Gcnc at times split marbles in half. He won many of his games by 7-1 and 7-2 scores. Oncc, in slightly over a month, Gcne won over 800 marblcs playing local players. The other Spartans were quickly eonvinced that Genc was truly a state champion!

A three time (1958, 1961, 1962) Illinois State champion, and with high finishes in National tournaments, Gene proved without a doubt that he was one of the nation's best marble players! Unfortunately, all of his medals were destroyed by fire.

While attending Sparta High School, Gene was a star athlete in several sports. He later played high-grade professional baseball but did not become a major leaguer. Today, Mr. Laws still lives in Sparta and works in a nearby underground coal mine. He vividly recalls his days of glory as a marble player!



Little Gene in 1958

Mr. Laws today.

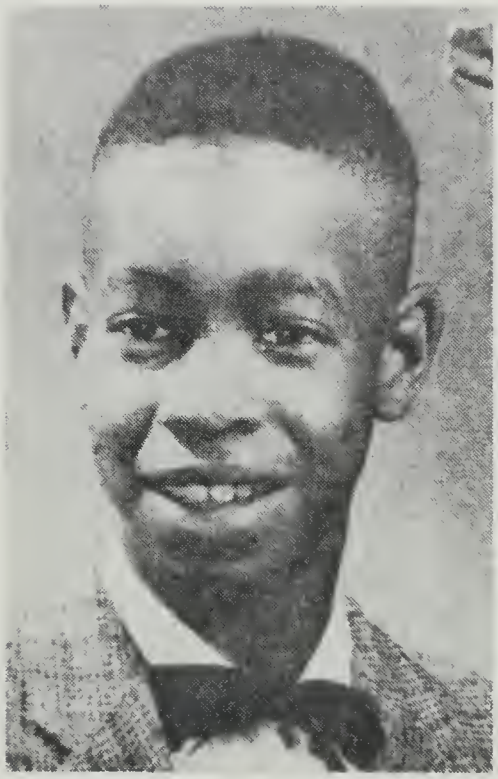
Delbert Beard

When Delbert won the 1959 Sparta marble tournament, he defeated defending state champion Gene Laws. Newspaper accounts stated that it was "an upset." Many people believed this and felt that Delbert would quickly lose in the district tournament.

However, friends, they were wrong in their belief! It was not an up-set. Delbert would prove that he, too, was one of the nation's best marble players! Now, who would have believed that three of the nation's best marble players all lived in the same small Illinois town?!

After being defeated by Gene Laws in the 1958 local tournament, Delbert defeated Gene in the 1959 and 1960 tournaments. Both years Delbert went on to Illinois state championships. His best finish nationally was 12th. Delbert, too, was a powerful shooter.

There are tens of thousands of V. F. W. "marble playing medals" in existance today. Should you ever see one you will know the story. You will also know that, regardless of whether it was for first place, second place, or third place, the original owner was an excellent marble player. During some of the tournament's peak years of the late 1950's, as many as 200,000 boys took part.



Delbert in 1960

Mr. Beard today.

There were more than 1,500 various tournaments held yearly throughout the nation. So, as you see, it certainly was a massive tournament designed to find the nation's best marble players!

About 1960, entries in the various tournaments began to decline. Therefore, faced with further declining interest during the next few years, 1962 was the last year the V. F. W. tournaments were held. Sadly, the game of marbles had begun to fade into the mist of time.

By about 1970, playing marbles had ceased to be popular. Today, the game is virtually dead in most areas of the nation. Sparta, Illinois, once the home of three of the nation's best players, is not the same. Mr. Robert Smith, owner of the local Ben Franklin store and once the largest supplier of marbles, stated that sales of marbles to small boys has been almost nil for the past 10 to 12 years.

Many readers of this article will think "how did three youngsters from a small town (Sparta's population was 3,600 at the time) win six consecutive Illinois State Marble Championships? How did they place that high nationally? It certainly borders on the unbelievable when one considers that Illinois is one of the nation's largest states!

You must remember that all three were later star high school athletes. The three just possessed rare "hand-eye" co-ordination. Th fact that they lived in the same small town was just coincidental. Playing marbles was once their game!

The marble playing era is gone. It is quite sad, because the young boys of today will never experience the fun that many of "us oldsters" did. Although skeptical, the author hopes the game will again be popular at some point in the future. Then, the familiar words (spoken by boys with enthusiasm and

shining eyes) of, "Hey! Ya' wanna' play marbles?" will again be heard. Then this article can begin all over again! It would be nice!

Acknowledgements

1. The entire Veterans of Foreign Wars organization for their massive undertaking to find the nation's best marble players. The cost and effort was tremendous, but worthwhile. Thousands of members gave their time and labor to make the tournaments successful.
2. The thousands of businessmen nationwide who donated financial assistance and material to the V. F. W. tournaments.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Avon Beard, Mr. Gene Laws, Mr. Delbert Beard, Mr. Edgar Laws, Mr. Robert Smith, Mrs. Marva Hickerson, Mrs. Clemmie Bardo, and Mr. and Mrs. James Orella, Sparta, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Byron Brueggeman, Marissa, Illinois. Mrs. Mary Lukes, Pinckneyville, Illinois.
4. The Sparta News-Plaindealer, Mr. William Morgan, editor and owner, and employee Gloria Hissong.
5. The DuQuoin Illinois Evening Call newspaper.
6. The 1958 Sparta High School yearbook.
7. Sparta, lllinois V. F. W. Post 2698, and Mr. Ray Ferguson.
8. Photography by Mrs. Lovita Ingram of Percy, Illinois. (Some original photographs, courtesy of the V. F. W. organization, were reproduced.)
9. The National Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Kansas City, Missouri; Director of youth activities Mr. Larry Lesebvre and assistants.

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The CoinFidence Corner

by Bill Quarles

"The Counterfeit Detector," Series II on counterfeit coin detection, is now available from the American Numismatic Association. Many subscribers are now receiving these invaluable reports that are designed to aid in the supression of counterfeit and altered coins.

"The Counterfeit Detector" deals with characteristics of both genuine and counterfeit key date coins of the world, with emphasis on those of the United States. Some of the coins to be covered in these reports are: 1856 flying eagle cent; 1955 and 1972 doubled die obverse Lincoln cents; 1918/7-D and 1937-D 3-legged buffalo five cents; 1942/1-P and D Mercury dimes; 1916 and 1918/7 standing liberty quarters; and 1893-S and 1894 Morgan dollars.

A total of 24 reports will be issued in this Series II at a subscription cost of $50. Individual reports may be purchased at $2.50 each, postpaid. For subscribers who order the entire series of 24 reports, an attractive binder will be supplied free of charge. The binder may be order separately for $2.50.

"The Counterfeit Detector," Series II will have no duplication of Series I counterfeit detection reports that are still available at $105 for the complete series of 36 reports or $4.00 for individual reports. An effort has been made to avoid duplicating any articles printed in **The Numismatist.**

The first parts of "The Counterfeit Detector," Series II are ready now and others will become available monthly. For further information, please contact the ANA Certification Service, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; telephone 303-632-2646.

A declining trend in the number of spurious and altered coins is being noticed in the coins submitted to the certification service of the American Numismatic Association. This trend may indicate a "cleaner" numismatic market-place as far as non-genuine coins are concerned.

Not only are the authenticators at ANACS noticing this trend in coins received by the service, but the same is true of material seen in the bourse rooms of conventions to which they are invited.

During the boom years of 1979-80, some 20-25 percent of the coins submitted to ANACS were spurious, replicas or altered. Since that time, however, publicity, seminars and attendance at shows has created a steady decline in the volume of fake coins. Today, ANACS personnel reveal, only about 5 percent of the coins they inspect are spurious or altered.

Another trend noticed at conventions and shows is the ever increasing consistency of grading. By their presence at numismatic gatherings, ANACS personnel can communicate and institute ideas relative to grading standards with the dealers and general public with whom they come in contact.

Several new style counterfeits of rare U. S. commemorative half dollars have been discovered recently by the American Numismatic Association Certification Service. In the past, nearly every counterfeit commemorative half dollar could be spotted easily by the dull, gray, "washed-out" lustre and a number of obvious depressions. These new style counterfeits exhibit much better lustre and virtually no identifying depressions or tool marks.

1925 Fort Vancouver Commemorative — Counterfeit

These new types seen by ANACS are: 1915-S Panama-Pacific, 1921 Missouri, 1925 Vancouver, 1928 Hawaii, 1935 Hudson, 1935 Spanish Trail, and a newcomer, the 1936 Albany. Each of these is a relatively scarce issue that is not usually seen in top grades by the average numismatist. Other issues that may have been struck by this counterfeiter are the 1893 Isabella quarter, 1900 Lafayette dollar, 1921 Alabama, 1922 Grant with star, and the 1927 Vermont.

These coins can be detected by three characteristics that are common to all examples seen. Each counterfeit has unusually sharp edge reeding, slightly fuzzy details and incorrect lustre. This lustre can best be described as the glossy sheen of a lightly polished mint state silver coin. In a side-by-side comparison with genuine uncirculated specimens of the same design, each of these counterfeits can be detected without much difficulty. However, to a numismatist who is not familiar with genuine characeristics, they can be dangerously deceptive.

These counterfeits have surfaced in Pennsylvania and Arizona as of this writing. Whether they attain a much greater distribution will depend strictly on the number of collectors and investors who purchase them. Numismatists not familiar with specific characteristics of ANY rare coin should deal only with ethical dealers who guarantee the authenticity of their merchandise.

1295 Fort Vancouver Commemorative — Counterfeit

For further information on these counterfeit commemoratives, refer to the ANACS illustrated article in the February 1984 issue of **The Numismatist,** or contact ANA Certification Service at 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

— Bill Quarles

Photo Credits — American Numismatic Association Certification Service, Colorado Springs, Colorado

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Numismatic Travels

by Kevin Foley

There have been several changes for the benefit of the traveler in some of the airline frequent flyer programs offered by airlines serving the Central States region.

Continental now offers a free round trip anywhere on their system within the mainland U. S. or Mexico after only 25,000 miles. After 15,000 miles, a free ticket for a companion is available with the purchase of one paid ticket. Continental also offers some of the lowest first class fares in the industry. In fact, in many instances their first class fares are lower than other airlines' full fare coach charges.

Republic still offers a free ticket after 20,000 miles of flying. If you haven't enrolled in their program yet they currently offer a 5,000 mile credit just for signing up. In addition, bonus miles for flights of various lengths

bring the actual mileage necessary to earn a free ticket to far less than the 20,000 miles stated in their literature.

Northwest recently added a number of hotels to their frequent flyer program. Credits can be earned for varying numbers of stays at participating hotels and can be redeemed for free or reduced price hotel nights.

Almost all the airlines offering frequent flyer plans make some changes in them during the course of a year. These can include bonus miles for using a particular car rental company or hotel chain or additional miles offered above actual miles flown on particular routes where the airline wants to build market share.

These changes are always explained in great detail in periodic mailings from the airlines. It does pay to read the literature as it comes, as the rewards can be significant.

I'm surprised at the number of dealers who attend 25 or 30 coin conventions each year who pass up free airline tickets worth hundreds of dollars simply because they haven't taken the time to understand the possibilities of the frequent flyer program offered by the airline they patronize most often.

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THE YN PAGE

by Dominic Garetto J-3611

The premier event of our Central States Numismatic Society turned out to be successful not only for dealers and their clients, but for YN's as well. The 45th Anniversary Convention, held April 26-29 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin featured a special YN program for young collectors. ANA Vice President and YN Program Chairlady Florence Schook presided over the meeting, with short talks given by Carl Wolf, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Coin Club, and myself.

After informing YN's of opportunities such as membership in CSNS and scholarships to attend the American Numismatic Assn. Summer Seminar, Mrs. Schook and Mr. Wolf administered a "coin quiz," asking general questions about numismatics. On answering correctly, even after a few tries, the YN's were awarded error coins. Last, a prize drawing was held, with the YN's able to choose from an assortment of coins and books.

Everyone present left with a little more information, a little bigger collection, and most important — a few more hobby friends. Any time you have an opportunity to attend such a program, as you will at our Central States Convention in Minneapolis next April, be sure to do so. It will be a worthwhile experience.

Annother opportunity you'll have at our next convention, and may already have at local coin shows or club meetings, is that of exhibiting. A number of YN's set up successful competitive exhibits at our last convention as well as interesting exhibits in the non-competitive category. I believe both areas are equally important, as the idea of exhibiting is educational and fun, but the competitive category does have advantages. Competitive exhibit awards were won by Michael Brodsky, who captured First Place and the Lowell Owen Memorial Junior Best of Show Award for his display of Byzantine Scyphates. Second Place honors in the junior category went to Roger Meidenbauer for his Death Dollar exhibit. Third Place was claimed by Bill Grundy's Jefferson Nickel display.

Not long after the CSNS Convention, Roger Meidenbauer learned that he had been awarded a scholarship to attend the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Exhibiting at coin shows is one of the factors taken into consideration in selecting the recipients of these scholarships, so Roger's efforts were rewarded with a nice opportunity to increase his knowledge of the hobby. I know that everyone who exhibited enjoyed the experience and hope anyone who has a potential in-

terest will follow it to completion. You will get more fun out of the hobby while educating others and will learn a great deal yourself as you do research to build your exhibit.

Like Roger Meidenbauer, I also received a scholarship for the Summer Seminar, held July 8-14 in Colorado Springs. I was able to attend through the generosity of CSNS and truly appreciate the scholarship that sent me for a week of numismatic fun and education. I attended the Basic Counterfeit Detection Class and gained more knowledge of that area than I had in seven years of collecting. And to top it off, I learned even more about counterfeits, grading and general numismatics from casual conversation with the instructors and other students, who were all very willing to share their knowledge and experience.

I was happy to see that there were many YN's at this year's seminar, due to the scholarships offered by many generous clubs and organizations, as well as the active work of Mrs. Schook and YN supporters at all levels. Mrs. Schook introduced me to Andrew Schmitz, one of the many YN's attending on a scholarship. This 13-year-old told me that he was also learning much from his class, Basic Coin Grading, and was really enjoying the whole experience. A fellow Minnesotan, Andrew works on a farm to fund his collecting interests, which include Lincoln and Indian Head Cents. This dedicated young numismatist is one of the newest applicants for CSNS membership and is excited about the many advantages, especially the prospect of entering the competition to receive next year's CSNS YN scholarship for the Summer Seminar. I'm happy to have him with us and hope many more young collectors with his dedication and enthusiasm will be joining us in the future.

I'd like to add that I received the CSNS Summer Seminar Scholarship as an alternate because there were no other qualifying applicants. Can you imagine that not one seriously interested YN sent an application for a scholarship with a value of roughly $600 that would have given the opportunity to spend a week in Colorado Springs, learn more about numismatics, and to meet other people who share the same hobby interest?

Are you out there now saying to yourself, "If I'd have known that I'd have applied." Just remember for next year you have a much greater chance of being accepted than you might think. It doesn't take long to send a letter to the CSNS Secretary telling her about your numismatic interests and accomplishments. Exhibits, articles and numismatically related school projects would all show that you are seriously interested in the hobby and would benefit from the Summer Seminar. Working to help your local coin club with its annual show would be another way to show the selection committee that you have a serious interest in numismatics.

Of course, if you don't want to bother with it, I'm sure Andrew would enjoy spending another week in Colorado Springs.

In closing, I'd like to offer all YN's an opportunity to express their ideas and thoughts about the hobby by having a guest columist from time to time. A lengthy research paper isn't required, just a few well reasoned paragraphs on whatever hobby related topic you choose that you think would be of interest to your fellow collectors. Include a little background information about yourself, and, of course, your name, address and telephone number. Sned it all to me — Dominic Garetto, Route 1, Box 77A, Winona, Minnesota 55987.

If you decide you'd like to write a full length article, send that to me also. Any material submitted by YN's will be welcome and appreciated. So here's your chance to be the "YN Columist" for an issue — don't delay!

Legal Tender

by Bill Mross

1) Dear Legal Tender: At coin shows that I attend as a bourse dealer I frequently "split" or share my table with another dealer. While many shows specifically prohibit this practice in their bourse rules, few, if any, ever bother to enforce the prohibition. At one recent show, however, the bourse chairman threatened to close my table and eject me from the show when he discovered that I was splitting my table. When I pointed out that at least 20 percent of the tables at the show were being split, he remained unmoved and was adamant in his insistence that I not share my table.

Since he allowed so many others to share their bourse tables, was he within his rights to enforce the splitting prohibition against me alone?

— Name and address withheld.

Dear Correspondent: I would think that this gentleman could well be courting some legal danger. Had there been something in the bourse application (which is most often a signed contract) or at least an understanding that at this show, at any rate, table splitting was disallowed and that prohibition were uniformly enforced against one and all, I would see no difficulty. Where, however, a single dealer has this brought against him when show officialdom is aware of the same activity on the part of the other dealers (or even if the rule was concocted **ex post facto** on the spot at the show and enforced upon dealers who had signed up to table split with no idea that it would finally be disallowed), it would seem that some sort of legal proceeding for discrimination or restraint of trade would lie.

The elements of damages would probably be any lost profits from the show (establishing these could be problematical) and a portion of the expenses that the dealer underwent in attending the event (e.g. table closed after one day of three day show — could perhaps recover two-thirds of show expenses — refund of bourse fee would clearly be in order). While I cannot cite you statute and case on this one, a person develops a certain instinct in this racket when all is not well — and your fact situation satisfies my instincts herein.

2) Dear Legal Tender: In June of this year I realized a lifelong ambition and purchased a local coin shop, including the right to do business under the previous owner's name.

To my dismay a number of customers who did business with the prior owner have brought coins to me asking for refunds of the purchase price. It seems that my predecessor sold coins with a lifetime guarantee of authenticity. The customers involved have sent coins either to ANACS or the International Numismatic Society Authentication Bureau and found out they were counterfeit.

Do I have a legal obligation to honor the authenticity guarantee of the previous owner?

— Name and address withheld.

Dear Correspondent:
Despite a couple of hours "in the books," I have been unable to unearth anything that would give you a hard and fast answer. However, I would not despair. What I did succeed in locating should be helpful to you in the final analysis.

It certainly appears that your predecessor-in-title created an express warranty as to the genuineness of his inventory. This would redound to the benefit of the customer(s). In your defense, you could argue that the cus-

tomers may have waited an unreasonably long period of time before returning the items to you — and thus bar them from recovery. If this does not avail you, you could certainly go after your seller and hold him liable for anything that you might be out. He would be a third party to any litigation between the buyers and you. I believe that you would recover thereby — you cannot delegate an obligation of this nature to another and thereby relieve yourself of liability on your warranty.

I do wonder if you had the services of counsel in your purchase of the coin shop. The warranties made by the prior owner should have been explored and a clause inserted in the contract of purchase and sale apportioning the liability between yourself and your seller for the situations that you describe. As a tip to both you and others, I would certainly counsel retaining a lawyer when buying a coin business (better make that **any** business), so that the entire scheme can be set out on paper in all of its facets and liabilities and responsibilities can be conclusively established in a manner that avoids any conjecture like the foregoing.

As a tip to numismatic purchasers — why not make the deal contingent upon the coin's passing muster at ANACS, INS, Silvertowne, or a similar agency? That way, you won't be out any cash while the authentication is pending and won't have to hassle with trying to recover if the piece bombs out.

— 'Til next time . . .
Bill Mross, Legal Tender

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